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EVE'S WEEKLY

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PANCAKE MEALS: INTERESTING AND EASY

ARE YOU GETTING YOUR FAIR SHARE OR ARE YOU BEING TRICKED ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES? A CONSUMER AWARENESS FEATURE

THE MONTHLY QUIZ

1980

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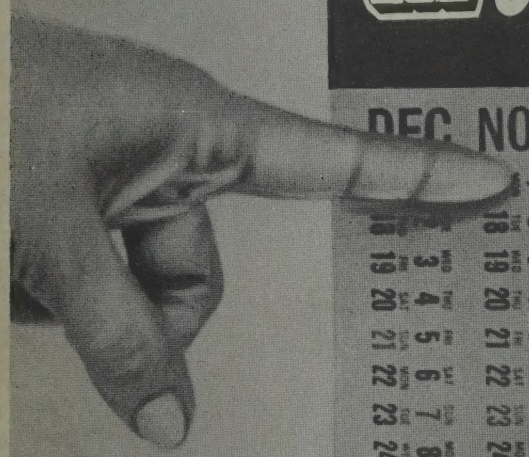

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Eve's Weekly

VOL. XXXIV NO. 23 BOMBAY JUNE 7—13, 1980

Cover :
SONU SINGH,

Ambiprincess Delhi, selected by Eve's Weekly in association with Shri Ambica Mills.

Photograph : Taiyeb Badshah

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PRINTED AND PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETORS: EVE'S WEEKLY LTD., BY
J. C. JAIN
AT SANJ VARTAMAN PRESS, BOMBAY SAMACHAR MARG, FORT, BOMBAY 400 023.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
Inland Rs. 85.
Foreign Rs. 127 (Sea Mail)

THIS WEEK

DOMESTIC RAPE

Recently a Bombay High Court judge convicted a man for raping his thirteen-year-old daughter. The crime raises all sorts of questions. How can a father rape his own daughter? Can there possibly be an explanation for such a horrible phenomenon?
Page 10.

YOUR FAIR SHARE

Are you getting your fair share of the goods you buy? Or are you being cheated on weights and measures? A Consumer Awareness feature.
Page 49.

THE RIGHTS OF THE CONSUMER

What we have in India is by and large a seller's market and of course it is the consumer that suffers. However, some legislation has been enacted to protect the consumer. A guide to these laws and regulations begins in this issue.
Page 40.

MARRIAGE REVISITED

When her marriage was no longer working, one woman sat back and tried to analyse what went wrong: was something wrong wth her? Or was something wrong with the kind of marriage that exists today?
Page 19.

ALSO

Colour Feature: Fabric Collages — **Page 23** Creative Photography: XI — **Page 25** Competing for the Crown: Women in Chess — **Page 29** Women in Focus: Homai Peerbhoy and Mrs. Ekbote — **Page 33** Film Interview: Ranjeeta, impulsive but gusty — **Page 47.**

REGULAR FEATURES

Your Page/**7**, Readers' Voice/**9**, People Known & Unknown/**13**, Short Story/**15**, Answers to quiz 11/**17**, Comics/**27**, Fashion/**30**, Cookery/**34**, Beauty/**39**, That's A Laugh/**39**, True Confession/**44**, Frankly Speaking/**55**, People & Events/**56**, Horoscope/**58**, Quiz 12/**58**.

Manju Singh, popular TV compere and producer of countless radio jingles, well-known face and voice. Devoted housewife, as finicky about household items as about her scripts, properties and sets at work...

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YOUR PAGE

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1st PRIZE

FRIENDLY MARRIAGES

Sophia Loren, in her autobiography, says that it was her beloved's wife who helped her to get legally married and saved them from a life of public condemnation — by dissolving her own marriage.

What a beautiful gesture by an unselfish woman, who willingly let her husband go to another woman, because she knew he loved her more. And what a sensible attitude she adopted: to part ways happily when a relationship has no more to offer, but to be content with whatever happiness it has yielded. When there is no love left in a partnership, why cling to beliefs of marriage? The sanctity of marriage is only for so long as the people who have taken the marriage vows have faith, not in the institution of marriage, but in their love for each other. After that, divorce or the dissolution of a marriage, and, if possible, remarriage, is the only solution.

We, in India particularly, could take a valuable lesson from this gesture, and regard the severing of marital ties and divorce as something not to be viewed with the usual tears, recriminations and mud-slinging, but as a way of life to be taken in one's stride, with the same dignity and calm this woman has exhibited.

After all, why must the end of a marriage and recourse to divorce be looked upon as the end of relationship — why not look upon it as the beginning of another relationship, of friendship with the former husband or wife?

BEENU SETHI, Chandigarh.

Not everyone can have friendly relations with ex-spouses. Most marriages end on a note of bitterness — more's the pity. Of course, "when there's no love left", it might be pointless holding on to a skeletal marriage, but then, in such cases, it is incumbent upon the partners to find out if there is anything left. Even if there is no "romantic love" left, there may be some affection, some companionship, some deep-down feeling upon which would be worth re-building a broken home.

2nd PRIZE

LOOK WITHIN

Every single day we read about chaos, confusion, discontent and disorder in the world, and especially in our country. We tend to blame our leaders for this malady but let us, for a moment, examine our conscience and ask ourselves, "What are we doing for our country?" We expect our leaders to be just, truthful, conscientious and possess all virtues possible, but do we ever confront ourselves? Are we, as citizens, contributing even a small mite towards our nation? Do we have civic sense, do we exercise our voting rights sensibly? Do we vote for a candidate because he happens to be our friend or because we have been bribed or influenced by others? Do we help to keep our roads clean instead of littering them with papers, dirt and spittle? Have we ever thought of switching off the fans on leaving the compartment of the train? Do we bribe the gas supplier or the kerosene seller, during a shortage, so that we get our commodities in time? There are even people who bribe the ration shop owner in order to get the rations without standing in a queue. In these acts of selfishness it is we, the consumers, the citizens, who bring ruin upon ourselves. So let us stop blaming or judging our leaders and learn to train ourselves to be worthy citizens.

B. GONSALVES, Bombay.

Who can stem this rot? Corruption and dishonesty have overtaken our lives and we are just going around in circles blaming the Government and each other. But, citizens are the children of a country and it is the leaders who, like parents, must guide them and show them the right path.

3rd PRIZE

THE HUSBAND HELPED

Everytime a letter of mine appears in these columns, some of my male cousins and friends ring me up to argue with me. "What have you got against us?" "When will you stop your tirade against us?" they ask, adding, "You know you are all wrong." To all of them I only put one question: "Why should you feel guilty?"

The only peron who appreciates and encourages me is my husband, who says nothing but smiles. It's because he can never feel guilty. Frankly speaking, were it not for the liberty and equality I enjoy as his wife I would never have looked around me and felt what I feel for other unfortunate wives. It's only after I married that I really acquired some sort of freedom in society. It is he who helped me to emerge out of my conventional background and meet people on equal terms. It is he who taught me to swim, to drive, and go places alone. It is he who encouraged me to take up my M.A. in my late thirties and complete it successfully. If I have become successful in my endeavours, it's only because of him. He has helped me to become a "Jack of all trades", from cookery to journalism.

Should I carry on with my tirade against men? Of course I should, for the benefit of others.

MRS. SRIJAYA N. CHAR, Bangalore.

There is no doubt that a woman can achieve much more — in this country, especially — if the husband is broad-minded and co-operative. However, conversely, there are too many lazy and disinterested women who take refuge behind the excuse: my husband doesn't approve...

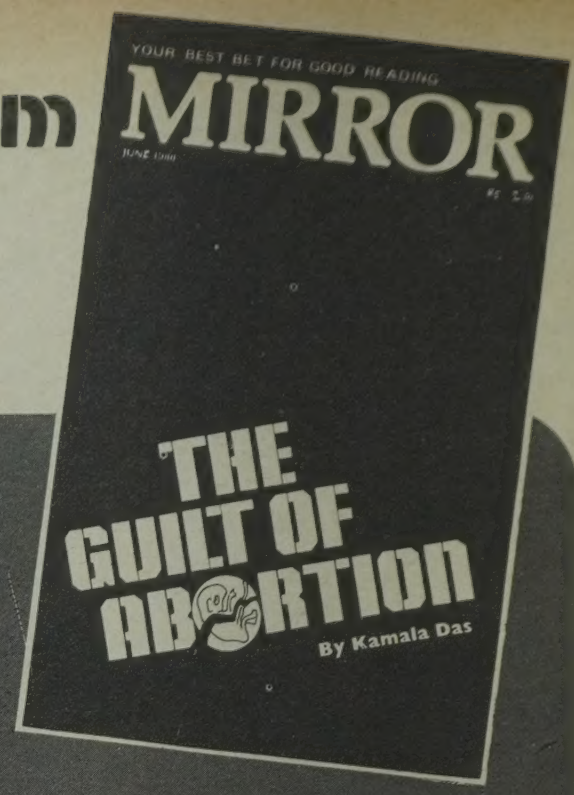
PAPAS AS MAMAS?

For ages, women have been grumbling that pregnancy, childbirth and other allied conditions fall to their lot while men escape scot-free. Yet, when I read that a forty-year-old man from New York took female hormones and breast-fed his infant, I was thunderstruck. If tomorrow men, too, conceive and produce babies, what will be the result? Aren't we tampering with God's plans? On the one hand, we demand equality and women's liberation — but, if the roles are really reversed, will we like it?

VEENA ADIGE, Nagpur.

We may not like it, but we'll take it... should such a thing ever happen. After all, today, men are wearing heels, necklaces, carrying purses, having, their hair permed and set — and nobody's really objecting. So, when the time comes for men to become pregnant and go through childbirth, let's just sit back and make clucking, sympathetic noises!

This month a special issue from MIRROR
Informative, Contemporary, Thought-Provoking!

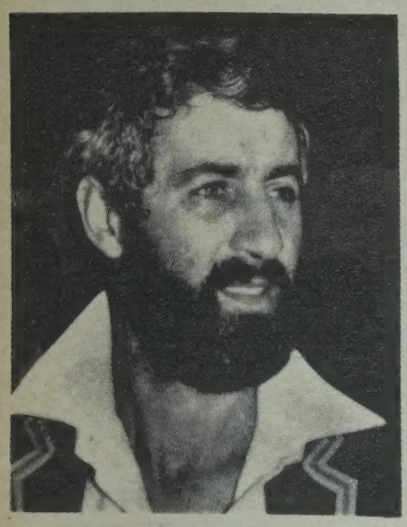


KAMALA DAS on 'The Guilt of Abortion'. An exclusive cover story from the famous poetess and writer.

Much has been written about this controversial subject. But never before has anyone explored the private guilt that it induces in the woman. In this unique article, written in her inimitable style, Kamala Das takes an unusual stand on abortion.

On the same subject:
'Pregnancy is not motherhood' says Bhagwan Rajneesh. In his usual forthright manner, Rajneesh argues that abortion is less of a crime and far less cruel than bringing an unwanted child into this over-populated planet.

Plus: A moving account of four women who suffered a near nervous breakdown, after undergoing abortion.



How to thrive on stress
Stress can wear you down. It can destroy your physical & mental health. But if you learn to control it, it can energise your entire life. An informative feature, full of insights.

Jean-Paul Sartre
An interesting biographical sketch of this famous French Philosopher—as a thinker, as a man.

Mike Brearley—On Captaincy
An interview by Ron Hendricks.

Discovering Hong Kong
A colour tour of this beautiful city—through its brilliantly illuminated streets, hotels, shops and supermarkets.

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READERS' VOICE

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THE DOUBLE BURDEN

The article, "Two Pay Packets Are Better Than One" by Sudha D. Hattiangadi (May 3), was very interestinng indeed. It is a fact that educated women will have the inclination to go out and work. But in the lower-middle class families, it is the working wife who suffers more than the housewife. Her in-laws welcome the money she brings in, but they expect her to be perfect in the house too. This is impossible. The Indian male considers it below his dignity to do housework. He is the 'bada saab' of the house. As long as this kind of attitude exists, the life of a working wife will never be a bed of roses.

S. V. JAYANTHI, Secunderabad.

ARRANGED MARRIAGES

With reference to the True Confessions (May 3), I totally agree with the writer's point of view that arranged marriages are futile attempts to achieve an ideal marriage. Being strangers, the couple is unaware of each other's nature and feelings and much is left to the imagination. These necessary elements are regretfully neglected in our arranged marriages. However, the main cause of this lies in our orthodox society which has imposed this irrelevant method on us.

Marriage is the most important thing in a person's life, and a fair opportunity should be given to the couple to know each other fully and come to a proper decision. Arranged marriages are a part of a futile system in which luck and fate seem to play a more vital role than constructive reasoning.

ADARSH MANCHAND, Lucknow.

THE MISSING YEARS

This refers to Jayabrato Chatterjee's story, "Irish Coffee", (May 3). The story was good and well written, but for a small flaw which mars it. When Mrs. Sen was in class II (age 6) Edna Mukerji was head girl (presumably in class XI, age 16), the difference in their ages being ten years. At the end, Mrs. Sen describes herself as a 'widow at thirty-one', and only earlier we read of Edna Mukerji celebrating her twenty-ninth wedding anniversary. By simple arithmetic, Edna's age should be thirty-one (Mrs. Sen's age) plus ten (the difference in ages) that is, forty-one. Was Edna married at the age of twelve then?

SHUBHA CANPULEY, Pune.

A HELPING HAND

In the article "Two Pay Packets Are Better Than One" by Sudha D. Hattiangadi (May 3), all the interviewed men want to marry earning girls. All of them are quite aware of the fact that if the wife is earning, it helps economically, but none of them is aware of the problems over-work can cause to the woman. They want wives to earn, as in Western countries, but they totally ignore the fact that in these countries the husbands also help their wives in running the house. If a woman can work both in the office and in the house, what is wrong with men? They claim to be physically stronger than women. So why don't they give a helping hand in the house? Wouldn't the second pay packet then give even more satisfaction?

SUNITA SINGH, New Delhi.

THE BURNING QUESTION

I refer to Chitra Chokalingam's interview with the burns expert, Prof. Douglas Jackson (Don't Play With Fire, May 10). The information given could well prevent many tragedies, the aftermath of fires, which are so common on the Indian domestic front. The professor's emphasis on precautionary measures to prevent infection and his warning of the hazards of wearing the "loose, flowing" saree in the kitchen should be kept in mind.

RATNA GEORGE, Secunderabad.

NEXT WEEK

ISSUE OF JUNE 14

PARENT EDUCATION :
A practical method to bridge the generation gap and help parents and children understand one another.

HOW MOTHERS CAN HELP
Two mothers with handicapped daughters help them to settle securely in life instead of merely wringing their hands in futile despair.

VISIT THY NEIGHBOURS
Travel writers Hugh and Colleen Gantzer tell you where to go and what to see in exotic Nepal and the emerald isle of the Indian Ocean.

STUDENTS TAKE OVER A STATE
A report from Assam about the youth power which has made run-of-the-mill politicians irrelevant and impotent in that State.

CONSUMER PROTECTION
More about the laws and regulations which govern the quality, quantity and price of the goods you buy and which protect you from commercial malpractices.

A RECENT BOMBAY HIGH COURT JUDGEMENT CONVICTED A MAN FOR RAPING HIS THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER. THE CRIME IS MORE BAFFLING THAN MOST. HOW CAN A FATHER RAPE HIS OWN DAUGHTER? CAN THERE POSSIBLY BE AN EXPLANATION FOR SUCH A HORRIBLE PHENOMENON?

Indira Jaising

On November 5, 1975, Kusum, a thirteen-year-old girl, was raped by her father in their home. Kusum's mother died when she was only one year old. Her father married again and had children from his second wife. Kusum was, in the meantime, left to be brought up by her grand-parents. At the age of ten, she was taken back to live with her father and step-mother. On the night of November 5, at about 9 p.m., after having dinner with the family, Kusum went into the bedroom. Her step-mother was still working in the kitchen. Her father came into the bedroom, pulled her into the sitting room, closed the door, and then raped her threatening to kill her if she cried out for help. Kusum, on the pretext that she be allowed to go to the bathroom, walked to the balcony and jumped out of the house. She then managed to make her way to the police station, where she lodged a complaint against her father.

Her father was prosecuted for rape. At the trial, he pleaded "not guilty". At first sight, the question appears baffling how does a father rape his own thirteen-year old daughter? Yet, a closer look at the facts leads to the conclusion that women become victims of rape only within the frame-work of a social environment which sanctions the oppression of women and a culture which promotes the view that women are sexual objects.

Kusum was the victim of an oppression which appears to have been suffered by her in common with her stepmother, for it seems that the latter was incapable of preventing the crime, which occurred when she was present in the house.

The accused, Kusum's father, pleaded at the trial that on that night he had invited some friends for dinner and that he had ordered his daughter to fetch some onions from the market. His defence was that, not finding the onions on the table, he got so angry with Kusum that she ran out of the house. He then pleaded that the charge was a false one, engineered by his rival in "business", a **matka** King. It was his case that Charya, his rival in the matka business, had connived with Kusum to make a false complaint against him, presumably to get unfair advantage in "business' over him. Fortunately for Kusum, her father's story was disbelieved by the court, and he was convicted for rape.

The case tells us a lot about oppression of women within the frame-work of the family. Kusum's father looked upon his own 13-year-old daughter as nothing more than a liability and at best a house hold labourer. These are her words, "In the past, I did not serve my father with water. He was therefore angry and was out to beat me when I took refuge in the neighbour's house. It is true that I am very much scared of my father, and a feeling of fear has been instilled in my mind. It is also true that, even now, I have my father's fright in my mind."

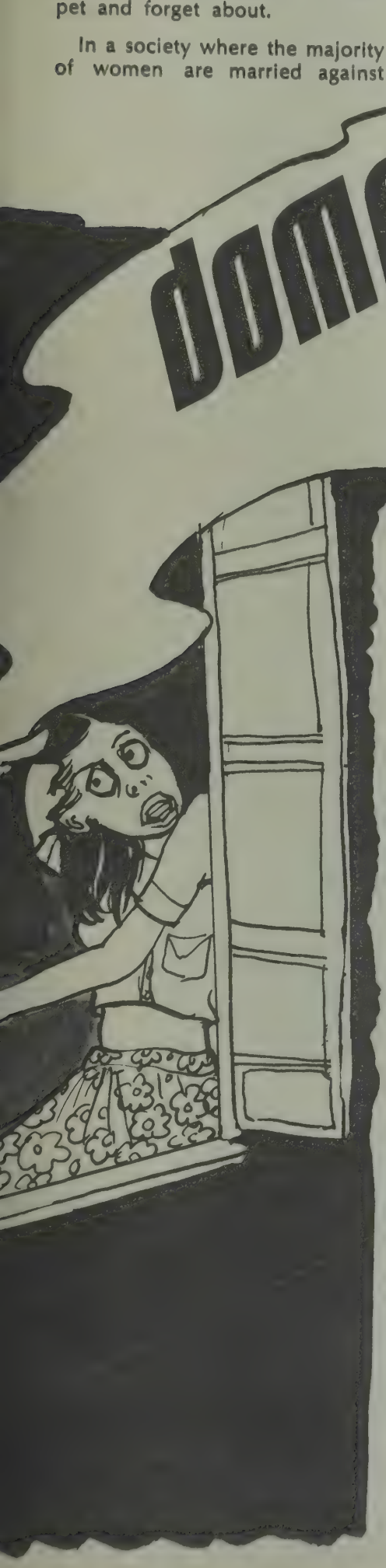
The recent Bombay High Court judgement is welcome, for it highlights a problem not openly talked about, a problem which society would prefer to sweep under the carpet and forget.

Kusum's oppression is part of the institutionalised oppression against women built into the frame-work of the family structure, where the women's role is defined as being that of performing services for the men, whether as daughter, wife or mother. She was the victim of an oppression which appears to have been suffered by her in common with her step-mother, for it seems that her step-mother was incapable of preventing the crime. In her evidence in court, Kusum stated that her father had , on two or three occasions in the past, taken similar liberties with her, and that he had threatened both her and her step-mother with death.

At the trial and in the High Court, an argument was advanced on behalf of the father that Kusum's behaviour in going to the police station instead of complaining to her step-mother made her story suspect. To Kusum, however, it was obvious that her step-mother knew about her father's behaviour, but could do nothing about it. Justice N. B. Parikh, rejecting the argument advanced on behalf of the father said, "In any case, Kusum's evidence makes it clear that her father, the accused, dared to commit the crime whilst her step-mother was in the house and her step-mother did not intervene in the matter. This clearly goes to show that Kusum did not expect any assistance from her mother." It would seem that Kusum's step-mother was dependent on her husband to such an extent that she was incapable of protecting her own interests and those of Kusum.

Rape within the family is not as uncommon as it appears to be.

domestic rape



What, however, is uncommon is the fact that any such case should get reported to the police and the accused prosecuted and convicted. This recent Bombay High Court Judgement is, therefore, welcome, for it highlights a problem not openly talked about, a problem which society would prefer to sweep under the carpet and forget about.

In a society where the majority of women are married against their will at a very young age, marriage itself tends to degenerate into legalised rape. The law does not help the situation either, for it presumes consent on the part of the wife and thus, in law, a husband cannot rape his wife.

Kusum's father was convicted and punished to seven years rigorous imprisonment. Justice Parikh of the Bombay High Court confirmed the sentence with the following words. "In the present case we have a sordid episode of a father, whose sacred duty it is to ensure the welfare of his own child, subjecting his own daughter, Kusum, who is of the tender age of 13 years, to the heinous offence of rape. Crimes in which women are victims need to be severely dealt with, and in extreme cases such as this, where the accused, who is the father of the victim girl, has thought it fit to deflower his own daughter of tender years to gratify his lust, then only a deterrent sentence can meet the ends of justice."

The law, in a case like this, can only treat the effect of a phenomenon, not the cause. Rape prevention must focus on eliminating the conditions in society which make women easy targets of rape. It must be seen for what it is, a social and cultural crime, and not just a sexual crime.

The Judgement is welcome, yet it cannot be suggested that a deterrent sentence can do away with a social problem. The law, in a case like this can, after all, only treat the effect of a phenomenon and never the cause. It is difficult, if not impossible, for a girl of tender years to prosecute her own father for the crime of rape. Rape prevention must focus on eliminating the conditions in society which make women easy targets of rape. It must be seen for what it is, a "cultural crime" and not just a sexual crime. Women cannot protect themselves through legal channels alone, for by the time they go to a court of law it is already often too late. Even if the criminal system functioned optimally, it would only detain some rapists, not eliminate the crime.

Kusum's fate is shared by several young girls. In Bombay, recently, a young girl of the age of 14 ran away from home. She was compelled to return to her home. It turned out that she had fled home in the first place because she had been raped by her step-father, as a result of which she had to undergo an abortion. After being forced back into the home, she was again raped by her step-father. Her mother must have known of her daughter's plight, but could do nothing to prevent it. The daughter was eventually put into a remand home.

It is primarily the knowledge that there is no escape for women in such situations that makes rape within the family possible. No amount of legislation can change that fact. Only a militant and autonomous women's movement can provide some alternatives and some hope of liberation from oppression for women like Kusum.

What is the way out of this sordid situation for girls like Kusum? Where can they go, if they think of leaving the family frame-work? It is this factor, more than any other, the knowledge that there is no escape for women in that situation that makes rape within the family possible. No amount of laws can change that fact, only a militant and autonomous women's movement can provide some alternative and some hope of liberation from oppression for women like Kusum.

In this context, women's organizations can play a role by ruthlessly exposing the rapist to public social censure. They can give moral support to the rape victim by encouraging her to talk about the incident and not hide her head in shame, as if she were the wrong doer and not the wronged. Most important, they can ensure that rape victims have a place to go to where they can get medical and legal aid and support, by setting up rape aid centres.

Side by side with social change, reform of the law is also certainly necessary.

This is not to say that reform of the law is not necessary. The standard defence in almost all cases of rape is that the girl, in any case, was a woman of "easy virtue" and not a virgin, implying, of course, that she **asked** for it. Surprisingly, in this case also, Kusum's father did contend that she was "habituated to sexual intercourse" and that a person of such a nature would not be averse to making a false complaint about her father. This argument, was, fortunately, rejected by the High Court for "it may be that she did have some relations with someone else but when her own father subjected her to rape she rebelled against it." Clearly there is a strong case for law reform here. A woman's previous sexual history must not be gone into in a case of rape. For, if it is allowed to be gone into, a Judge is likely to be carried away by his prejudices, so great still is the taboo against premarital sex. It must be made unlawful in a trial for rape for the lawyer for the accused to question a woman about her sexual experience with any man other than the accused.

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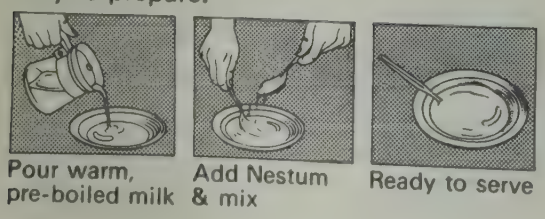

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PEOPLE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

The gentle giants of the sea, the dolphins, are said to be one of the most intelligent species known to man. Yet, Japanese fishermen slaughtered more than 200 of them for their flesh. Dolphins are protected by law in many countries. Quick to take up their cause, **Dexter Cate,** a 36-year-old American environmentalist from Hawaii, cut the nets and freed 250 other dolphins. He was promptly arrested by the Japanese authorities on a charge of obstructing fishermen's business by force and damaging equipment. This was exactly the kind of publicity that Cate was looking for. He is planning a full dress trial and hopes to corner enough international attention to shame the Japanese into stopping this mindless slaughter.

* * *

While the ministers of the Janata government travelled by

ordinary commercial flights, the comeback of the Congress (I) has meant a return to pomp, with ministers like **P. C. Sethi** demanding a siren, a cavalcade and a pilot car to "ensure their safety" whenever they are visiting officially. The only beings not impressed by all this glory-getting are the animals. In Mapusa, Goa, two bulls hired for a bullfight looked at each other with boredom and walked away, in spite of the fact that Goa law minister **Dayanand Narvekar** was the chief guest. The enraged crowd started pelting stones at the poor bulls, which ran away to safety. In the ensuing melee, the forgotten minister beat a hasty retreat.

* * *

Margaret Thatcher has proved with one stroke that she is smarter and stronger than any other statesman. While Jimmy Carter

is still dithering over the hostages issue, Thatcher sent her commandos to storm into the beseiged embassy in London. A woman who has otherwise maintained an impeccable reputation, two of her kin did cause her an embarrassment some time ago. A normally retiring person, her husband **Denis Thatcher** first raised the dust of controversy when he supported a rugby tour of South Africa. It has now been discovered that he is the director of a chemical firm that manufactures a poisonous weed killer (banned in the United States) that is said to cause cancer and some genetic defects. Fast on the heels of this controversy, Margaret's 26-year-old son **Mark,** a race car driver with the looks of a film star, was offered the chance to model for Japanese textiles which would then be splashed all over the world. This, at a time, when his mother is promoting a vigorous "buy British" campaign. The British press lost no time in nicknaming Mark the **Billy Carter** (who has embarrassed his brother, the President of America, time and again) of England and the British Clothing Manufacturers Federation called his contract "shameful". Faced with mounting criticism, Mark withdrew from the Japanese ad campaign but not before he was reportedly paid an unspecified sum of money by a British tycoon. . .

* * *

When a dictator comes to power, he consolidates it by bringing as many of his family close to him as possible. Using the mounting lawlessness in his country as an excuse, Philippines President **Ferdinand Marcos** threw opposition leaders into jail and declared himself president-till-he-desires-to-step-down. Wife **Imelda,** a former beauty queen, was appointed governor of metropolitan Manila, and within a

few years, this 50-year-old beauty, with her own fleet of jets, has been acknowledged as one of the world's richest women. The latest to acquire power (the ninth member of the family, in fact) is the president's 22-year-old son, **Ferdinand Junior,** better known as Bong Bong. He has been elected "unopposed" as vice-governor of his father's home province of Ilocos Norte.

* * *

When the spiritual head of the Ismaili Shia community, French resident **Aga Khan,** hinted some years ago that as one of the world's richest and most eligible bachelors, he might choose an Easterner as his bride, many Indian film stars preened themselves in readiness. But they were in for a shock. The devastatingly handsome Aga Khan chose Englishwoman divorcee and ex-fashion model, **Lady Sarah Croker Poole,** as his bride. Now known as **Begum Saleemah** she always dresses in gorgeous silk saris whenever in India and looks stunningly beautiful. Recently in India to see their subjects, the couple met the Prime Minister and were invited to innumerable dinners and luncheons.

This time, they were here for a really worthwhile cause — the setting up of a huge charitable trust for all creeds and communities in India, which has been recognised by the United Nations.

UNKNOWN

First, Mr. Vaidiyanathan of the railways set the trend by writing a book teaching his staff how to be polite to customers. Now Mr. J. S. B. Brownson assistant commercial inspector (announcer) of the Central Railway has brought out a handbook for announcers. Little nuggets of advice range from, "Your announcements should be tactful" to "Feel friendly, sound friendly, pause after each word, sentences and thought and, most important, think as the wise men do, but speak as the common people do." Will we commuters see an improvement in the image of the railways?

Lakshmi Narayan

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Thums Up

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THE REASON WHY

Hyma Bal

IT is not often that I hear the chiming of temple bells. For, it is not often that I visit a temple, even though there is one close to my house and my wife goes there almost every day. It is not that I don't have faith. I am as religious as the next man, and I do believe that more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. But you know how it is. One becomes indifferent or just plain lazy to make the effort to walk to a temple, even though one may walk double the distance to some other place, or joint, that affords amusement.

But sometimes, when the spiritual call nudges me, I do visit the temple and hear in the peaceful hours of twilight its bells pealing. Then I am reminded of her, though today I have a wife, and two children, both grown up, and I have come a long way since the days when I was a young man in the throes of his first love.

I remember her when the bells peal because I used to tell her so many times, "Anita, your voice is like the chiming of temple bells."

It made her laugh always, and every time she laughed, her even teeth shone like pearls. Yes, there was a purity in the tinkle of her laughter that filled your heart with an ineffable delight, like the sound of temple bells.

"If my voice is like temple bells, perhaps it is because there is a god in the temple of my heart."

I didn't need to ask the obvious, but I liked to hear it. It made me feel so good. So I would pretend to be surprised, and ask her to tell me who it was. She would smile and say, "Well, Siva or Ganpathy ..."

"Shucks!" I'd say. "If they try to take away your heart, they'll have me to reckon with," and I would flex my muscles and punch the air, and she would burst out laughing — and I would laugh with her, for when one is young and in love, laughter comes so easily. Together, hand in hand, one can laugh at a flying wasp, or a boulder in one's path.

Well, as I said, I'd never heard a voice as mellifluous as hers — she ought to have been a singer. She could have beaten the established singers any day. Yet, she hadn't made it her vocation. Nor, after so much promise of a happy married life did she become my wife. Even today, though many years have passed, and there are crow's feet round my eyes and silver in my hair, I can look back and remember the day, the time, the place, where she had told me that she would not marry me.

I can remember the exact words she used to shatter my dream.

Even at the outset that day, when we had come walking hand in hand as usual to the glade that had become our trysting place, she had not been her usual self. She had snatched away her hand from mine, making as if to brush some imaginary hair from her eye, and when I put out my hand again, she had instead held the pleats of her sari, ignoring my outstretched hand. Once she had stumbled, and when I made it an excuse to gather her in my arms, she had broken loose, giving me a tentative push.

She had not laughed when I cut a couple of jokes which at any other time would have had her in stitches. Hurt, I had stopped and inquired, "Hey, what's the matter? Anita, don't you feel well? Is that it? We shouldn't have come out then. Why didn't you tell me?"

"No," she had stammered. "I am sorry, Raju, but I think this has got to stop. You see ... I mean ... it's not that ... oh, I don't know how to tell you."

And then it had come out in a rush. As though, if she paused for breath the words would get stuck in her throat." Raju, it has all been a mistake. I liked you a lot, I still do. But it isn't love, and if it isn't love, it just isn't enough for we people to get hitched for life. You see, I want my freedom. Marriage means a lot of give and take — and adjustments. It means falling in line, and it means babies and responsibilities, and in the final analysis, it may even come to a stage, where one loses one's individuality.

I STOOD AND LOOKED AT HER AND DREADED THE MOMENT WHEN SHE WOULD TURN AND SEE ME. SHE HAD SPOKEN THE TRUTH. MY LOVE COULD NOT HAVE STOOD THIS TEST

"Marriage may bring a lot of benefits, but there is also a debit side to it. I've been thinking it all out, and I'm afraid I don't want to marry. Not you — not anyone — ever. Whatever was between us was good while it lasted. But it can't go on. You must forgive me if I have wasted your time, but since this is the way I feel I think we had better stop seeing each other."

I had stared at her, utterly flummoxed. Even if she had given me a sock in the jaw I would not have been more surprised.

"Anita," I'd almost shouted, "what's got into you? Are you crazy or is this one of your pranks?"

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THE REASON WHY

Hurt, angry, bewildered, I continued, "If it is, it isn't funny there's too much at stake." And I tried to grab her.

But she gently pushed me away. "No, Raju, believe me, I am in earnest — I don't want marriage. Period."

Panic and bewildered anger rising in me, I had sneered derisively, "The god in your heart? Perhaps it's some other guy now."

There had been a curious kind of pain in her eyes. "No," she had protested. "There'll never be another god. Please try to understand. Perhaps someday you will — that I've a right to lead my life the way I want it."

There was a finality in her voice that made me feel desperate. My nerves were raw with the hurt, the shock. "O.K." I had shouted "I'll find another girl— an ordinary, normal girl, who doesn't have high falutin' notions of her own importance, whose ego is not too big to marry."

I knew I was hurting her, but all she said was, "Someday Raju, perhaps we will meet again and you will thank me for this day."

I met her again. No, we did not actually meet each other. For she did not see me. But I saw her. It was on the beach of a resort town. We, I and my family, had gone there on a holiday and I had come to the beach alone to have a bath. I was walking absent mindedly over the sand towards the sea. Boats were beached upside down near the water. And then I heard the voice. At first I thought it was an illusion — memory playing tricks over the corridors of time.

Then I saw her. She had changed sadly, but her voice was still the same as the music of it was wafted to me over the gentle breeze. Even before I saw her I knew that voice could belong only to Anita. Shock and surprise mingling, I turned to see and she was sitting leaning against a boat. Years had passed, I was living the sedate lite of the middle class householder. Yet now her sight made my heart leap up in excitement. But I didn't show myself to her as she sat on the sand.

She caught a large ball that had come rolling towards her. Then she threw it to a little girl who came running after it. The girl caught the ball, but instead of running back to her playmates she kept staring at the woman on the sand.

Then slowly, as if fascinated, she moved forward, and in the direct, uninhibited way of children asked, "Aunty, you are so fair. Did you drink lots of milk? Mummy says if I drink milk, I'll become fair. You must be drinking lots and lots of it. I wish I could be like you."

"No dear, don't wish that. Aunty is not fair, only sick, "she replied sadly. In the stillness of the beach, I could hear every word she spoke. There was a tragedy in that dear voice that wrung my heart.

"But you are so fair," the girl persisted. "Were you born like this? Or how did you become so fair"

"No dear, I wasn't and I'm not really fair. It's a sickness I got when I was 18. Now run away to your Mummy."

"But when you became fair you must have been terribly happy, "the child insisted.

"I was terribly sad, because I had to give up something I loved very much," Anita replied and the catch in her voice carried all the way to me.

"But why? Because you were going to be so fair?"

"Yes dear ... now you must run along, you wouldn't understand. And like Mummy said, you must drink your milk ..."

Yes, she had become an unearthly white with here and there little patches of her old light brown colour. I saw her looking out to sea. I saw her wipe her eyes.

"Someday you will thank me, for not marrying you ...." so that's what she had meant.

I stood and looked at her and dreaded, yes, dreaded, more shame on me, that if she turned her head, she would see me. She had spoken the truth. My love could not have stood the test of leukoderma. After all, I argued to justify myself, love is not all emotion, there is a physical side to it, too — a very important side at that.

Leucoderma is not contagious. Yet, would I have been able to touch her, kiss her? Take her in my arms? Live with her as husband and wife? Happily? It would have been an impossible marriage, I thought.

I walked away from her. For old times' sake, I could have gone back. Told her how sorry I was. For now her behaviour was no longer a puzzle. I knew that she had turned me away, not because she did not love me, but because she did not want to put my love to such a severe test.

I walked away, I did not want to meet her. I did not want to embarrass her. More, I did not want to embarrass myself.

And as I walked, the waves dashed against the shore, and as they foamed over the sand, in my ears the refrain went .... "Coward!" "Coward!"

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ANSWERS TO EVE'S WEEKLY QUIZ NO. 11

1. Dom Moraes
2. The Salt Satyagraha and the Dandi March
3. Sir Issac Newton
4. Franz Joseph Haydn
5. Miss Marguerite Yourcenar
6. Mr. Hubert H. Humphrey
7. Rehana Sultan
8. Erich Fromm
9. The Police
10. Paul Gauguin
11. Prakash Nath
12. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

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MARRIAGE REVISITED— A Woman's Viewpoint

IS LIFE A SLATE WHICH CAN BE ERASED AND MADE COMPLETELY BLANK AGAIN SO THAT, FROM THE WEDDING DAY ONWARDS, A BRAND NEW STORY CAN BE STARTED?

You asked me for my views on marriage in general, and about how my marriage has turned out in particular. First of all let me tell you that my views are not conventional. You know that my train of thought is not like everyone else's. But before I tell you about my views on marriage, let me tell you how marriage works in today's society. My personal view. A woman's point of view.

Marriage is not something which starts on the wedding day. It starts much earlier than that. Two little babies are born — one male and one female — at two different times in history. They develop in very different ways, have different views, different outlooks on life, different ideals and goals, and at times different cultures and religions. They grow up, they meet, they fall in love and they get married. And they think it is the beginning of a new life for them. A new married life which they will build up together.

But how can this be possible? Is life a slate which can be erased and made completely blank again (kora kagaz) so that, from the wedding day onwards, a brand new story can be started, with no connection to what went on before that day? Can the couple start building a new life together (as they build a new home) based on a completely new set of values, goals, dreams and hopes?

No, this is not possible. Life is a continuous process of growth from birth to death. And you enter marriage with your old set of values and thoughts. Your concept of marriage, your expectations, your dreams — these, in very rare cases (one in a thousand, I presume), match with the other's, and then you have a perfect marriage: a marriage of companionship and friendship, not a marriage of compromise. That is why the choice of the right partner is very important and essential. Because it is in this choice that you experience either heaven or hell, here on earth. There is no alteration, no mending, afterwards.

Now what happens in the other 999 cases? But before that, there is one more thing one must remember at this stage — a certain measure of compromise is necessary in every marriage. No two people grow in the same way. For example, if there were a set of twins belonging to the same sex and brought up in the same environment, under the care of the same parents (not like in Hindi movies — one getting lost and being brought up somewhere else), who wanted to stay in a house together (I don't mean homosexuals or lesbians — I mean just live together platonically): there would still be conflicts and compromises. Because no two minds think alike (and it is worse when they do because then they would both expect the other person to do all the dirty work!)

So how much more compromise is bound to be necessary when two people — one male and one female (I know, but I mention the fact here because I think it has a lot of influence over your outlook on life and your reactions to situations. I think people of the same sex react in more similar ways), brought up in different environments, used to completely different ways of life, decide to live together! When the partners have the same (or at least similar) sets of values, the same tastes, the same hopes and dreams, when they have had nearly the same way of life etc., then there are bound to be fewer conflicts and less compromise. And as a result, there will be more love and fellowship. The theory that 'opposite poles attract' may be an accepted theory in science. But in marriage it is a myth.

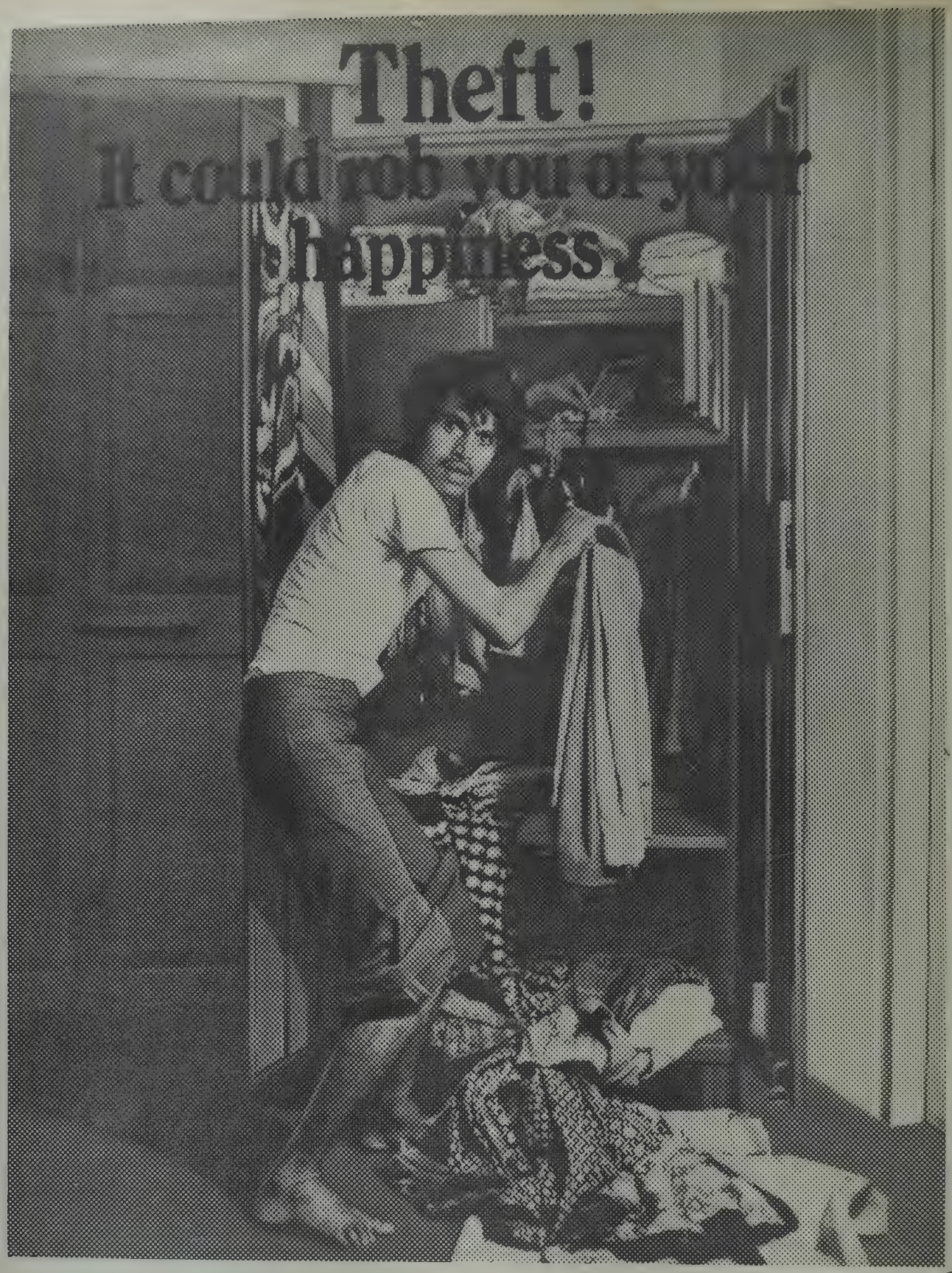
Another important factor crucial to a marriage is the concept that "marriage is a relationship between two mature individuals". If either or both partners are not mature, then life is hell. Because then the one who is not mature will have to be treated as a child, will always have to be pampered. And the one who is mature will have to face all the challenges of life alone — after all, you cannot expect a child to face the challenges that an adult has to face!

The problems that crop up when you start living together under one roof have to be experienced to be understood — which brand of toothpaste to use, what type of food (salty, pungent, meat/fish) to eat, timing for baths (morning/evening, hot/cold water), the time to be taken for dressing and shopping, what you buy, how you eat, what you drink, how you dress, how you look, how you walk, which programmes to watch on T.V. or whether to watch at all — the list is endless. (Oh! if only we had a system of trial marriages lasting a month or two, which can either be made permanent or nullified. But then again, which man will take the 'left-overs' — they all want virgins, and we have to make them believe that we are: a kind of cat and mouse game. So we may go to bed on the quiet before marriage, but living openly — my, it's impossible!)

You never give a thought to these kinds of problems till you start living together (I am speaking from experience). No one tells you these things and even if someone does, they seem too irrelevant to bother about. Though these little things can make or break a marriage. But the couple is too busy with major issues, issues regarding the new life (?) they are about to start. You wonder whether you will be suitable partners for sex, whether your experience will be rewarding, fulfilling, whether you will be able to satisfy your partner etc. Then: how many children shall we have? When? Will our income be enough to support us and the children we will soon have? And so on. When such major issues are under consideration, who ever thinks of food, drink and which brand of tooth-paste to use (how silly!).

There is one more thing you have to realise. The man enters the marriage **all set to dominate.** The woman enters the marriage **not ready to surrender.** This is a new and recent problem. It wasn't there a generation ago. Because then the woman entered the marriage only to surrender. She expected it, and was prepared for it. Her life upto that moment was a preparation for the life she was to lead from then onwards (a dumb cow being led to the sacrificial altar).

But today's society has very contradictory sets of values. On the one hand we shout slogans about the liberation of women, the deliverance of women from traditional bondage, the equality of women in all respects etc. from the roof tops. On the other, we still have a society that believes that the 'be all and end all' of a woman's life is marriage. She has no placee in soc-



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MARRIAGE REVISITED — A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

iety unless she stands besides a man. Oh, for heaven's sake! If you expected your daughters to get married, then please don't teach them to be free, to be liberated, to feel equal to men. Because this will break them, shatter their spirit, as it broke me and shattered my spirit.

Now, before even the glitter of the wedding fades away you go to bed together (and if you have not been to bed before,) for the first time. Now this is a new experience. The couple believes that this is the plattorm on which their marriage will be built. There are problems here, too, and people make you believe that if everything goes well here it will go well everywhere else. Now the experience is totally different for the man and for the woman. For the man it is an experience of dominance, power, release from tensions, and (perhaps) the culmination of his love for his bride. For the woman it is an experience of surrender, a gift, an offering of yourself to the person you love (or think you love — the personification of your dreams), an experience of love mingled with pain. The joy and happiness of the woman does not consist in seeking her own climax but in cooperating with the man so that he reaches his. (This seems to me to be an in-built safety valve provided by nature for the perpetuation of the species — that the man should reach his climax at all costs because otherwise conception is not possible!). But here, on this night, the pattern is set for every area of life in the years to come. The woman who surrenders, the man who dominates. The man seeking his own pleasure. The woman deriving pleasure in the happiness of man. For the man, an experience of comfort and release (eat your cake and have it too, sort of thing); for the woman, an experience of love mingled with pain. So far so good. In the area of sex, it was somewhat acceptable, or at least a little more so than its extension to other areas of life. No one told me that this would be the pattern of life in every field.

Are today's women, who are born to be free, who have experienced liberty, freedom and equality in their own homes, emotionally ready for this total surrender? You may answer 'YES' on the first night. The problem crops up only the next morning. The man wants his breakfast in bed (it is his birthright — after all, hasn't his mother given his Dad breakfast in bed for donkey's years?). Now the woman who thinks she is liberated and is equal to any man wants to have her breakfast in bed too. After all, it is her body which is aching, not his (I gave him the gift of my body last night. Now let him at least give me breakfast in bed. Is it too much to ask? Here is equality for you!) And lo and behold the First Night transforms itself into the First Fight. And breakfast leaves a sour taste in the mouth — no matter who prepares it or even if they go out for it. The fight will be patched up very soon because sex is still a new and very powerful force and has yet to be explored. But I assure you the fights that follow will not be patched up so soon.

And it is here, at this stage, that your temperament, your character, your outlook on life and religion, your hopes and ambitions, your picture of marriage and what you expect from it, plays a very important role. If one partner has a mild and quiet temperament and is ready to give in, it is fine. Especially if that person happens to be the male, because then he can seek happiness elsewhere to save his marriage — society has many built-in mechanisms for man's happiness, inside or outside marriage, never a woman's happiness — in drink, in friends, in gambling or in other women, anything is tolerated; after all, he is being tortured by his wife at home, he must get some happiness somewhere. And the other partner starts wearing the pants and begins to dominate.

I mentioned one type of successful marriage at the beginning — the perfect marriage. Here is the second type of marriage — a workable solution. Only, if the partner who gives in is the woman, then she must suffer in silence until death do them part, because there are no built-in mechanisms for a woman's happiness outside marriage. Her only choice is to "Do or Die".

Now what happens if neither of the partners has this sort of mild temperament (as in 80 per cent of marriages)? Then the compromise begins. Compromise on every single issue. From the smallest (why should I change my brand of toothpaste?) to larger and more vital ones like how many children shall we have? So, who must compromise?

We live in a male-dominated society. Man has built this type of society over thousands of years. We call it the Patrilineal Society: I give your child a name — great favour(!) — and in return you be my slave. But the man had to be absolutely sure that the child was his own and nobody else's, so he introduced all kinds of restrictions and taboos on the woman's actions, her very thoughts — the sanctity of marriage, we call it — her body and soul become his property, to be used only at his pleasure. The most shrewd and cunning move of the male in perpetuating the system was in making the woman believe that this was her passport to eternal life. "I am your Lord and Master here on earth. If you obey me you will get eternal life." And now he could sit back and relax. The woman did the rest — slowly engraving this message on her children's minds right from infancy: man, the superior being; woman, the subordinate. Dolls for girls, cars for boys. Man, the wild conqueror; woman, slave and door-mat.

But today's women are wiser. They have exploded this myth. Today they realise their abilities, and powers. But just because the woman has realised this, why should the man give up a very comfortable way of life? A marriage which made no demands on them except that of a bread-winner? And, after all, if the worse comes to the worst, he still has the physical power to make her bow to his will. He knows she has no place in society alone. So he tells her: I use this brand of toothpaste. If you want, you may use it; otherwise, you are free to return to your parents. This is compromise for you. If he gives in ten per cent and the woman 90 per cent, both of them — especially he — think that he is giving her the moon on a platter. (My father never did anything like this. Be grateful I am so understanding. I help you so much. You women will never be satisfied). So the woman uses his brand of toothpaste, however grudgingly. After all, how can she return to her parents on a trivial issue like that? But wait and watch. The matter will not stop at the toothpaste level. This pattern of life continues, with the woman giving in on practically every single issue.

But she is stifled. She looks around for help. She wonders what has gone wrong. And now, another blow comes her way. The very people who advocated liberty and equality, now preach high-sounding slogans like, "the woman's place is in the home", "it is a woman who can make or break a marriage", "charity begins at home", "your husband and your children come first", "a woman's happiness lies in creating happiness at home", and so on.

There are no such slogans for men. Only for women. Man is born free, with no restrictions. The woman is confused further. She cannot coordinate this type of thinking with her formed trend of thought. A battle rages within her all the time.

And then comes a time when the compromise is no longer on issues, but on her values, her ideals, her goals. This is the last straw. But where is she to go, if by now there is a child in her belly or in her arms? I do not know how other women solve this problem. I only know that I have not been able to solve mine. But I can mention a few solutions that women find for themselves. The weaker ones commit suicide. The stronger and braver and economically more independent ones go in for divorce or separation and realise far too late that they have no place in society. The large majority of women stop thinking for themselves.

Here we have the third type of workable marriage. The woman gives in on every issue, including her values, hopes, desires and ambitions — a sacrifice at the altar of marriage. Your values, my values. Your god, my god. Your mother, my mother. The facade of marriage is retained, while the woman dies from within.

Now, finally, they realise the blunder of their youth, in believing women are born free and equal. They start believing that women are indeed second class citizens. They stop thinking. They pass their time cooking, sewing, mending, cleaning and washing dirty diapers. (Human vegetables). Rich and upper middle class women form clubs, engage in rummy sessions, do social work, and exchange recipes. And life goes on. Every one is happy once again.

But then, if this is the end, then why stuff the heads of innocent girls with such nonsense as equality, liberty and freedom? This is what I cannot understand. Why train them in such ideas and let them discover, often too late, that all these are only theories, which can never be practised in real life. It is the same as talking about social injustice and then saying there is nothing that can be done about it. Wouldn't the process of change from single girl to married woman be far less painful if they do not have such

Continued on page 55

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FABRIC COLLAGES

A gifted artist, Delhi-based Sonia Dembla has several exhibitions to her credit, of oils and fabric collages. Featured here are two of her collages entitled "Images" which were on view at her recent exhibition in Bombay.

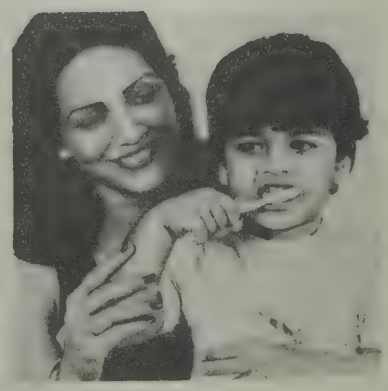
She has chosen a very expressive medium; but it is hard work — she hand-stitches every single piece herself. The fabrics, lines and colours are imaginatively composed revealing her mastery over this unique art.

In her work, Sonia makes use of different types of fabrics chosen with descrimination from all over the country — delicate gauzes from Varanasi, Bandhanis from Gujarat and Rajasthan, printed material, colourful silks from the South, and so on.

Subtle use of a ceramic pendant/beads heightens the effect of her very evocative images as you can see in her work on the left.

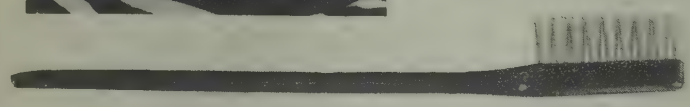
Colour photographs : Taiyeb Badshah

Binaca®
Children's toothbrushes



Binaca
Baby Toothbrush

Binaca
Junior Toothbrush



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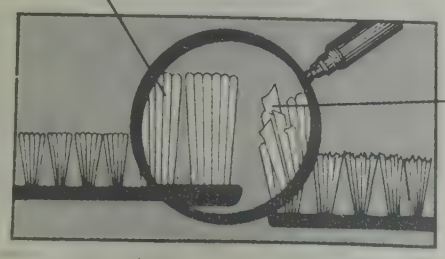
Remember, all Binaca toothbrushes have safe 'rounded bristle tips' that do not tear the gums.



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PICTURES THAT SPRING TO LIFE

Homi Kharas

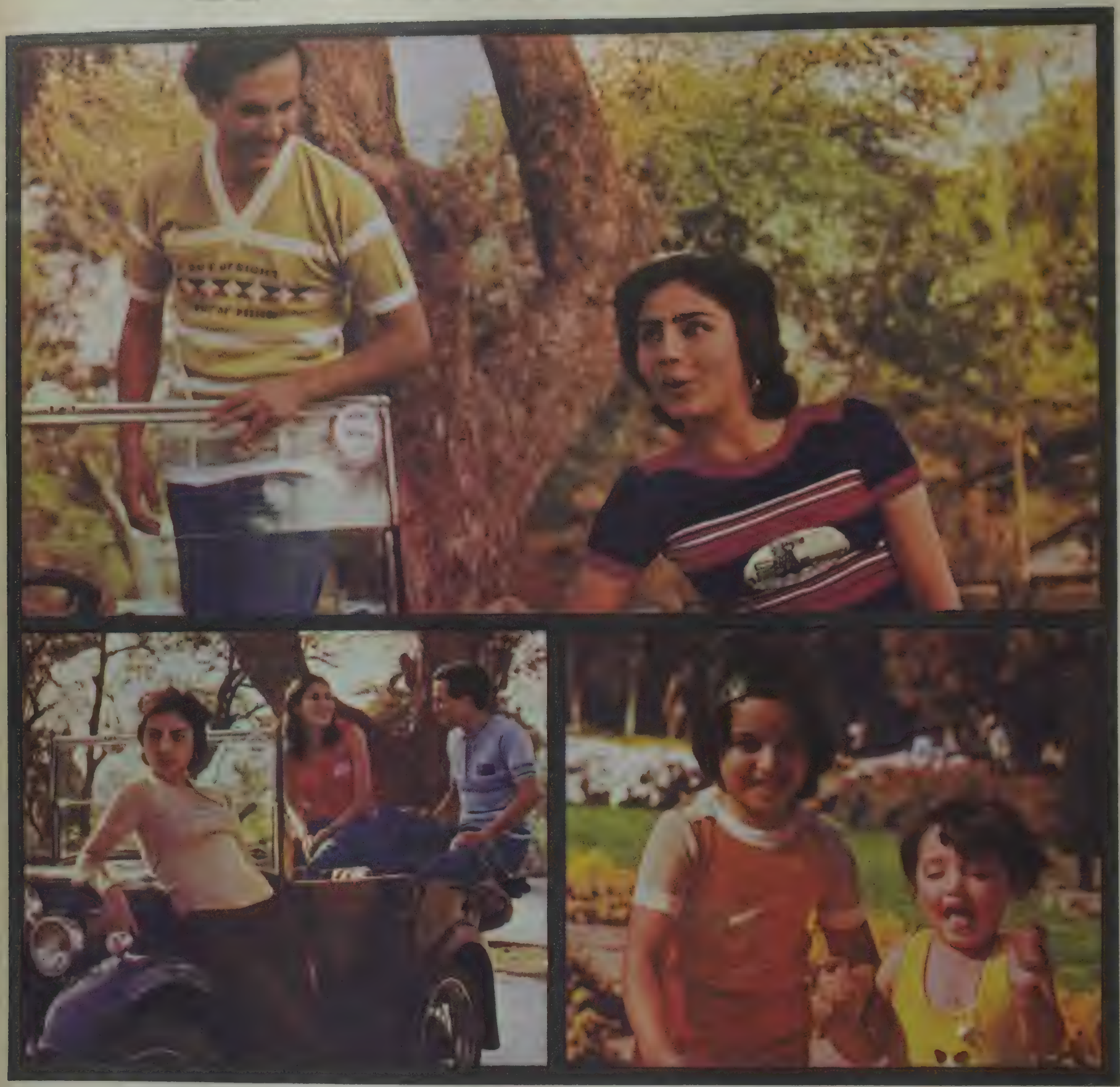
Kiddies are lively subjects who deserve to be photographed with imagination. Get them to do something and see how they co-operate. They will come out with ideas of their own, and nice ones too.

Although the first picture is obviously a posed one, it is fortunate that both are not staring at the camera. And the affectionate placing of the hand on the other's shoulder is interesting. Still it is not a story-telling picture.

Now look at the other one. It's packed with humour. Playing at dentists, and for the pliers they have used a kitchen gadget, whereas the extracted tooth is a piece of chalkstick. The glasses give the boy a professional touch. Such a picture would grace any family album for years to come.

Think up some nice ideas if you have children around the house.

Hi-Fashion Focus



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THE LITTLE WOMAN

by Don Tobin

JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT TO SPEND FOR A HOUSE, MRS. BUTTERWORTH ?
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WELL, ABOUT...
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS ? HA! HA! HA!
REAL ESTATE
BEST BUY
3BR.....
OH HO HO HO HO!
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HO! HO HO HO
WELL, I THINK WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING IN YOUR PRICE RANGE, MRS. BUTTERWORTH -

THE LITTLE WOMAN

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Flash taste... so m-m-much tinglier you'll want to brush longer for the sheer joy of it.

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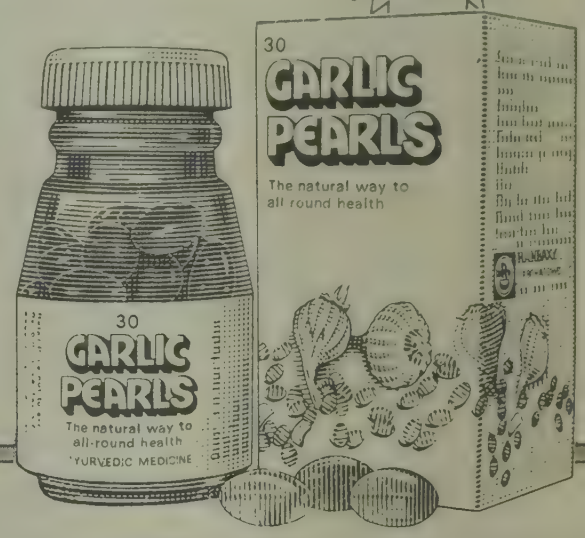
Take two pearls twice daily regularly.



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COMPETING FOR THE CROWN

E. Aslanyan

In recent years, the ancient game of chess has been gaining increased popularity with women. And, despite acute rivalry, the chess crown has for nearly two decades been held by women of Soviet Georgia.

The first successes were scored by young women in Georgia even in the early fifties. In 1952, Liana Khachapuridze, a charge of Vakhtang Karseladze, a prominent chess teacher in the republic and head of a chess circle at the Tbilisi young pioneer palace, was placed first in the USSR team competitions. Two years later, Manana Togonidze, another girl trained by Karseladze, won the USSR girls' chess title. The coach did much for young Georgian women to move to advanced positions in world chess. Vakhtang Karseladze was, in the first place, a born psychologist and had the talent to cultivate the natural gifts for chess in youthful chess players. It was Karseladze who in the 1953 Georgian school-children's chess competitions in Batumi took notice of a 13-year-old girl, who subsequently won the world title. That was Nona Gaprindashvili.

NONA GAPRINDASHVILI

Nona, born into the family of a teacher of an agricultural school in the small Georgian town of Zugdidi, learned to play chess at the age of five. The girl did not lag behind her brothers in anything, and the latter willingly allowed her to join in their games. They took up many pursuits: basketball, gymnastics, and even football, where Nona was entrusted with the defence of the goal. Yet, the boys devoted a greater part of their free time to chess. Little Nona's first teachers were her father, and uncle and brothers. The popularity of chess with the family led to the three brothers qualifying as first-grade players. Yet before long, the pupil went far ahead of her teachers.

At the age of nine, Nona Gaprindashvili took part in a district tournament and, at 11, in a republic one. In 1961, Nona Gaprindashvili emerged victorious, unexpectedly to many, in a tournament of challengers for a match with world champion Yelizaveta Bykova. A year later, she succeeded in convincing all that her first major success had not been accidental. She put up an excellent performance in a match with Bykova and, without losing a single game, won the world crown. From that time on, for 16 years, the outstanding Georgian player, the first woman to have won the title of Grandmaster, continuously held the world women's chess title. Experts have repeatedly pointed out her special positional intuition and spectacular style in attack. With Nona's emergence in major chess competitions, the traditional, "female" manner — the slowed-up development of events at the opening stage according to "book", clam progress in midgame and the thorrough and unhurried way of cashing in on one's advantages — has been replaced with a new kind of play: swift, at a quickened pace.

SOVIET GEORGIA HAS GIVEN MANY REMARKABLE WOMEN CHESS PLAYERS TO THE WORLD, WHO HAVE CONFIDENTLY EMERGED WINNERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

One can safely say that the emergence in Georgia of a whole galaxy of up-and-coming chess players — Nona Alexandria, Maya Chiburdanidze, Nino Gurieli, Nana Ioseliani and Mziya Tsereteli — is a result of the infectious example Gaprindashvili always set and continues to set by her bold play. "To win a game you should often take risks," she says. Nona Gaprindashvili has more than once proved this in international tournaments, in battles for the chess crown against such strong challengers as Nana Alexandria.

NANA ALEXANDRIA

Nana began to go in for chess at the age of six, with her father, Georgy Alexandria, assistant professor of Tbilisi University, teaching her the first lessons. Soon he took Nana to the chess club of the Tbilisi young pioneer palace, where Vakhtang Karseladze, a remarkable trainer, who coached Tigran Petrosyan and Nona Gaprindashvili, started teaching chess theory to her.

Nana was quick to gain successes in chess. In 1964, the 14-year-old player won the right to take part in the finals of the USSR chess championship. After this, three times she took part in USSR championships (1966, 1968 and 1969) and won the USSR title. Alexandria has more than once emerged victorious in major international tournaments, won the European cup in 1970, and then, at last, the time came and she was placed first in a tournament of challengers to battle it out with world champion Nona Gaprindashvili.

For the first time in the history of world championships, two women representing the Georgian republic — Gaprindashvili and Alexandria — had to decide in a match between them who would wear the chess crown. The match evoked keen interest in the republic. Both enjoy great popularity in Georgia. Alexandria's prestige had, naturally, been enhanced in many respects by the fact that she was not only a favourite pupil of Karseladze, a name that commands great respect in Georgia, but also by her actually becoming a successor to his cause after the trainer's death. Alexandria's popularity with chess fans was promoted by Gaprindashvili herself — to be more precise, by the moral atmosphere that surrounded her personality of a champion, public figure and woman. The match ended in favour of Gaprindashvili, who had displayed a fighting spirit worthy of a genuine champion. Nevertheless, fans were still at it, predicting Alexandria's victory in a few years' time.

It was precisely then that another star, Maya Chiburdanidze, one of a galaxy of very young players, appeared on the chess horizon.

MAYA CHIBURDANIDZE

Everything Maya has attained during her as yet short career in sport is unprecedented. The entire history of chess competitions did not have another case of a girl aged 13 becoming an international master or winning, at the age of 16, the USSR title and qualifying as international grandmaster. Nor, of course, had anyone else, young woman or man, won the world chess crown at the age of 17. In 1978, that memorable match was held at Pitsunda, on the Black Sea shore, once again with representatives of Georgia's chess school — Nona Gaprindashvili, who had for 16 years confidently ruled over the chess world, and Maya Chiburdanidze, a 17-year-old challenger for the world title. And the crown went to Maya, a representative of the "super new wave" in Georgian chess — of the girls and young women who have confidently emerged in the USSR and in the international arena.

CHESS IN GEORGIA

Why is it that precisely this small republic in Transcaucasia has given so many remarkable women chess players to the world? Maybe it is because of the long-standing tradition in Georgia to present the bride with a set of 'chessmen' at her wedding? But, seriously, the popularity of the ancient game in Georgia is unusually great. Apart from Tbilisi, capital of Georgia, where there are a chess circle at the young pioneer palace, a special children's chess school, the Republican Higher Chess School and the famous chess palace, clubs function throughout the territory of the republic — chess is being actively popularised over the radio and television, and in the press, many interesting tournaments are held in Georgia. The emergence of phenomenal Georgian woman chess players is thus not accidental, but legitimate. Three out of the four challengers who are these days competing for the right to play a match with world champion Maya Chiburdanidze are representatives of Georgia's chess school: Nona Gaprindashvili, Nana Ioseliani and Nana Alexandria.

ABOVE: The pink and green lehenga-choli ensemble with a matching dupatta encrusted with silver zari embroidery, looks ravishing against the beautiful minaret of the Taj Mahal

RIGHT: A Mughal style printed churidar-kurta has a chiffon dupatta—— Mirror work and zari embroidery add sparkle to the outfit.

Courtesy: Ritu's Boutique, Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Amritsar.

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fashion designer, it is a delight to create trend-ng designs to suit all moods and occasions — from austerely sober to the recklessly flamboyant. These -kissed sarees and lehenga-choli will bring opulent ry to your wardrobe. These are the clothes that make you look and feel at your prettiest any time, place.

LEFT: A floral printed silk saree in a gay combination of pink, green and off-white has a gorgeous border of roses to match the broad pallav. It looks just right against the Rajput decor of Hotel Amer Clarks, Jaipur.

ABOVE: The churidar-kurta in beige and burgundy print goes well with an embroidered dupatta in gold zari. Looking very traditional against the "honeycomb" wall of the Taj Mahal.

Photographs : Asha Kochhar

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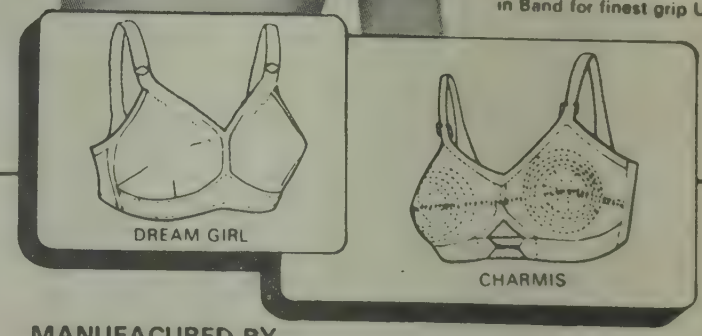

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WOMEN IN FOCUS

DEDICATED SERVICE TO EDUCATION

HOMAI PEERBHOY

Homai Peerbhoy's most recent social service project may well turn out to be the most worthwhile of all the many such projects she has been involved in. When her husband, the well-known lawyer, Mr. Akbar Peerbhoy, died some years ago, he left 10 lakhs to be used by his wife during her lifetime and thereafter to be left to the Anjuman-i-Islam, to set up an educational intitution for women. But Homai has decided that she would like the institution to come into being as soon as possible, and has released the money to set up a Girls' Polytechnic in Bombay which will start functioning this June.

"My husband was very keen on women's education," said Mrs. Peerbhoy, "and he always believed that women should have equal opportunities and I endorse that."

The courses at the Polytechnic Mrs. Peerbhoy explained, will include Secretarial, Dress making and Fashion Designing, Needle Craft, Cookery and Printing. It will be open to girls from the age of 14 upwards of any community and caste.

"The idea is not only to train women for a vocation, but also to start a production centre where the skills these women are in the process of acquiring can be put to practical use. We will also help them find employment after completion of their course," said Mrs. Peerbhoy.

Why were these subjects chosen in particular — because they are considered typical women's subjects'?

"No, not really," said Mrs. Peerbhoy, "These subjects lend themselves particularly well to the production centre I spoke about earlier, where we can sell the items the students make thus giving them some experience. We wanted to start an Electronics course and the Director of Technical Education was very keen that we should, but for various reasons it was not possible to include the course immediately in the syllabus. We are however keeping it in mind for the future. There is a greater demand for courses in these subjects which we would like to meet before we expand further."

The Polytechnic will also have a Homemaker's course, which would teach a girl how to keep a good home, the basics of interior decoration, good grooming cooking etc. Isn't that a rather insidious way of encouraging women to think of themselves as just housewives?

"No," said Mrs. Peerbhoy seriously, "I do believe in women working, it broadens their horizons, gives them other interests, but not all women are keen on working — many are content to be good housewives. Besides our courses can help a woman to be self-employed in the home. She needn't go out to work and yet she can be financially independent."

Homai Peerbhoy's other activities include being the President of Friends of Children. "I always wanted to do something for children — they are my special interest", says Homai who has been President for the past 18 years. The organisation has built homes for destitute children and provided medical facilities for children in hospitals.

Once a week Mrs. Peerbhoy sits in the Juvenile Court as Metropolitan Magistrate. Her early training had been in Law. She obtained her LL.B. but never practised. "Instead I worked for a while on the editorial staff of 'March' now defunct, and then Dosu Karaka offered me a job with 'Current' and I worked there for six years."

Mrs. Peerbhoy is also Vice President of the Anjuman-i-Islam, her particular charge being the Akbar Peerbhoy College of Commerce and Economics (also started by her husband) and a boys' public school in Panchgani. She is also the Chancellor's nominee on the governing body of the SNDT Women's University.

"In setting up this Polytechnic," Mrs. Peerbhoy concluded, "I am trying to fulfil my husband's plans and wishes. Projects of this kind could make women independent and self-employed. If we are successful we could start these classes in other places too."

S. G.

PRATIBHA EKBOTE

Mrs. Pratibha Ekbote, Principal and Vice-President of the Kalina Education Society, has been in the news recently on her retirement after 20 years of dedicated service to education.

When Mrs. Ekbote first started kindergarten classes in her home in Sunder Nagar, Kalina, under the auspices of the Ladies Club, Kalina, she little realised that it would blossom into a high school of 1500 students with a Fine Arts and Music section, to which she is particularly devoted.

Under her able management, the school progressed rapidly, helped by a special grant of Rs. 10,000 given by the Education Department of the Maharashtra Government in recognition of the good management and consistently high academic record of the school. A marked feature of the school is its effort to inculcate in the children an awareness of being "Indian". Caste and communal differences are firmly discouraged and the children are taught to consider themselves "Indian" first and last.

Born into a family of doctors in Pune, Mrs. Ekbote had to overcome many handicaps to attain her present position. She had pleurisy and over-medication in trying to cure that led to deafness. The school was expanding at this time, and her hearing problem was getting more acute, but fortunately, with surgery she was cured.

Mrs. Ekbote's education too suffered. An active participant in the freedom struggle she responded to the Mahatma's call. She could not continue her studies beyond S.S.C. With remarkable application however, she passed her B.A. and B.Ed examinations when she was 45, and then took over as Principal of the Society's High School.

Mrs. Ekbote also served on the Education Committee of the Civic Body as a non-councillor member for four years. She is also connected with several other organisations such as the Sadhana Education Society and the Indo-Czechoslovak Cultural Society.

PANCAKE PARTY

Premila Lal

Here's your invitation to a pancake party! Sounds rather unexciting but in fact it's an excellent idea to choose one outstanding dish to focus on. It's a modern and sensible way to plan a casual get-together. Here are eight super ideas to suit the warm weather. They are easy to prepare, with fabulous sweet and savoury fillings that will make people talk about the party for days afterwards!

They're dishes that not only save time but are also ideal when you are too tired to stir up a complete meal for the family. So, on with the tasty turnouts, quickly put together, using fresh ingredients or even re-hashed leftovers!

Photograph : Taiyeb Badshah

PANCAKE BATTER

120 grams flour
2 cups milk
2 eggs
Butter
1 tsp. salt

Sift the flour and salt together in a mixing bowl. Add milk and eggs and beat briskly together till you have a smooth batter. Lightly butter a frying pan and heat. Pour out approximately two tablespoons of the mixture into the heated frying pan, covering the surface thinly. When one side is cooked, flip it over carefully and cook on the other side. Take care to use the same amount of batter for each pancake if you want them the same size. Enough for eighteen pancakes.

LAYERED PANCAKES

8-12 pancakes
2 tbsps. cheese, grated
2 cups milk
1 tbsp. butter, melted
1½ cups mixed boiled vegetables, cubed
Salt to taste
2 tbsps. cornflour
Pepper and chilli powder to taste

Blend the cornflour in butter. Add salt, pepper and chilli powder to taste. Add milk and mix well. Cook over low fire till thick. Add grated cheese and all the boiled vegetables. Place the prepared pancakes in a shallow dish, sandwiching each layer with the above prepared vegetables in white sauce. Sprinkle the top with grated cheese, dot with butter and lightly bake in the oven before serving if desired.

COCONUT PANCAKES

1 cup coconut, grated
1 tbsp. sugar
Few drops vanilla essence
Castor sugar
12 pancakes

Make the pancakes according to the recipe given. Make a syrup of the sugar and a little water, then add the coconut and essence. When the water evaporates, remove from fire. Spoon some of the mixture onto one half of each pancake and roll tightly. Sprinkle with castor sugar and serve warm or cold.

VEGETABLE SPRING ROLLS

500 grams mixed vegetables (carrots, string beans, bamboo shoots)
2 cups bean sprouts
1 onion
4 dried mushrooms (soaked in water)
2 tbsps. soya sauce
Oil for deep frying

Shred vegetables finely. Shred onions and mushrooms. Mix all the ingredients together and add a little salt. Heat five tablespoons oil and saute the vegetables lightly. Keep aside to cool. Place two tablespoons on centre half of each wrapping. Fold in the sides and moisten edges with a mixture of cornflour and water. Roll and seal. Heat fat and deep fry till crisp and brown. Serve hot.

FOR WRAPPINGS:

Mix two cups flour and enough water to make a smooth batter. Heat a small greased pan and pour enough batter to cover surface. When batter sets, remove from pan. Repeat process till batter is used up.

SPICED CORN PANCAKES

2 cups fresh corn
2 eggs, well beaten
1 cup flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1½ tsp. salt
1 tbsp. melted butter
¼ cup milk
1 tsp. chilli powder
1 tsp. fresh ground pepper
Oil for deep frying

In a deep bowl, pour the well-beaten eggs and milk, and beat thoroughly. Sift the flour, baking powder and salt together and stir into the egg mixture. Now mix in the corn and the melted butter.

Heat the oil for deep frying until it is very hot, but not smoking. Drop spoonfuls of the mixture into this. In three to five minutes, the pancakes should be ready to turn and brown on the other side. Drain and serve hot.

CHICKEN LIVER AND MUSHROOM PANCAKES

2 doz. chicken livers
180 grams mushrooms, chopped
1 small onion, chopped
1 tbsp. parsley, chopped
180 grams chicken stock
180 grams cream
Chilli sauce
40 grams flour
¼ cup cheese, grated
Pancake batter
90 grams butter
Salt and pepper to taste

Clean the livers. Dip them in boiling water for three minutes. Mince them coarsely, through a mincer. In a saucepan heat half the butter in a pan and saute the mushrooms and onions. Add livers and one tablespoon of warm water. Cook for ten minutes.

In another pan heat the remaining butter and blend in the flour till smooth. Add the stock and cream and cook, stirring constantly, till it is smooth and thick. Add parsley and seasoning and mix in the liver mixture. Make the pancakes in the usual way and use the mixture as filling. Fold over once and sprinkle with cheese before serving. Serve hot.

FLAMBE PANCAKES

4-6 cooking apples
2 tbsps. brown sugar
A pinch cinnamon powder
A pinch clove powder
Pancakes as required
1 tsp. brandy

Peel and core the apples and cut into cubes. Put in a pan with just sufficient water to cover. Add the cinnamon, clove powder and the sugar and bring to a boil. Simmer until water evaporates. Make the pancakes. Put a little of the apple mixture onto each pancake and roll. Place the pancakes on a flat serving dish and pour the brandy over them. Set alight immediately. Serve warm.

CREPE SUZETTE

FOR THE PANCAKES·

2 eggs, separated
2 cups milk
¼ tsp. salt
2 tbsps. castor sugar
1 tsp. lemon rind, grated
Butter

FOR SUZETTE SAUCE:

250 grams sugar
4 tbsps. unsalted butter
Juice of 1 orange
Grated rind of 1 orange
3 tbsps. rum (optional)
1 tbsp. Cointreau (optional)

Put the egg yolks in a mixing bowl and beat well. When creamy, add the castor sugar and mix. Now gradually add the milk. Blend well. Add the salt and lemon rind and mix. Beat the egg whites very stiff and add to the mixture. Heat a frying pan, then add a little butter, just enough to grease the bottom of the pan. Pour in just enough batter to get a thin coating. Brown the pancakes lightly on each side. Roll.

Use a chaffing dish or the top of a double boiler and dissolve the butter, sugar, orange juice and rind. When the sugar dissolves, add the rum and Cointreau. Drop each rolled pancake into the hot sauce and serve very hot. This can also be served with the hot sauce poured over the pancakes.

STRAWBERRY CREPES

350 grams strawberries, sliced
150 grams cream
100 grams almonds (optional)
Castor sugar
Pancakes as required

Sprinkle a little castor sugar onto the strawberries. Then fry the pancakes and place a tablespoon of the fruit in each. Fold and sprinkle with a little castor sugar and top with whipped cream. Chop and roast the almonds. Sprinkle on top of the cream.

NEW GIFTS FOR OUR COOKERY WINNERS

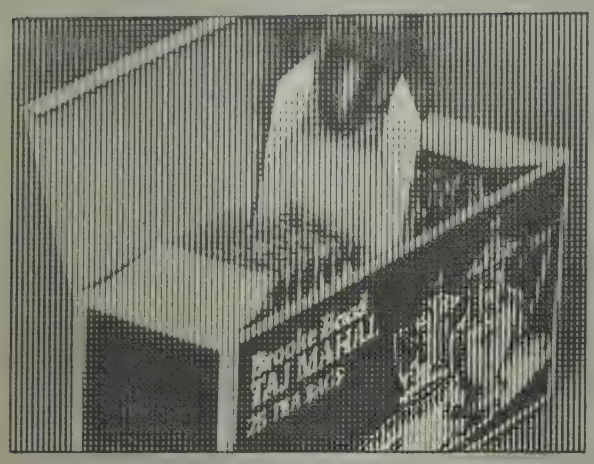
Prize winners of our Weekly Contest will receive, from January 1980, in addition to the usual Rs. 50.00 cash prize,

1) A 9-cup Storefresh container from **TRU PTI INDUSTRIES,** Bombay, 2) A Gift Hamper from **CORN PRODUCTS** containing Brown and Polson Custard Powder, Rex Jelly, Rex Baking Powder and Davis Gelatine and, 3) A compact gift packet containing all the Spices and Spice powders from **P. MITTULAUL LALAH & SONS,** Madras.

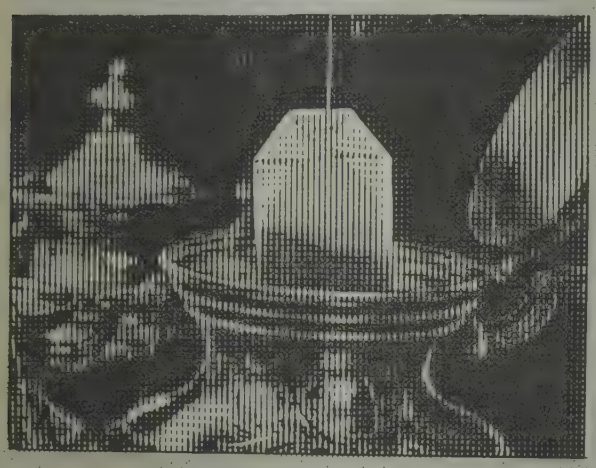
So send in your original vegetarian or non-vegetarian recipes accompanied with a coupon, to the Cookery Editor, EVE'S WEEKLY, Bombay Samachar Marg, Bombay 400 023.

Brooke Bond presents

a great new way to good tea



just pick...



and dip.

Mmm!

No more strainers, or messing with used leaves nor washing up afterwards. Taj Tea Bags, a simple, tidy and stylish way to make tea, good tea whose strength can be matched to individual taste. Plus a waste-free means of keeping check on how much tea you use. And of course the Brooke Bond promise to make every cup a joy.

Brooke Bond

Taj Mahal Tea Bags

Good tea. Made simply.

Available in select towns only.

RECIPES FROM OUR READERS

Mrs. Indira Ghivalikar, Bombay.

STUFFED POMFRET

1 big size pomfret

GRIND TO A PASTE:

½ coconut, grated
10 chillis
Corlander leaves
4-5 cloves garlic, flaked
½ tbsp. salt
¼ tsp. turmeric powder
1-inch piece ginger
Juice of 1 lemon
2 tbsps. rice flour
½ tbsp. chilli powder
¼ tbsp. turmeric powder

Clean the fish. Slit horizontally from one side and remove the middle bone. Stuff the ground masala inside the fish and neatly tie with the thread. Mix rice flour, chilli powder and turmeric together. Apply this rice flour mixture over the surface of the fish. Heat oil. Fry the stuffed pomfret till brown. Remove the thread, cut in slices and serve.

Mrs. Sathi Narendranath, Kerala.

EGG OMELETTE STEW

4 eggs, separated
1 coconut (extract two cups of milk, keep aside)
2 tbsps. milk
6 tbsps. ghee
½ cup onion, thinly sliced
6 green chillis, crushed
½ tsp. ginger, ground
2 tomatoes
4 cardamoms
6 cloves
4 pieces cinnamon
2 tbsps. coconut, grated
¼ tsp. chilli powder
¼ tsp. turmeric powder
¼ tsp. pepper corns, crushed
A pinch baking powder
A few curry leaves
Salt to taste

Beat the egg yolks and whites separately. To the beaten yolks add milk, grated coconut, baking powder and salt. Mix well and then pour in the egg whites. Stir well.

Heat ghee in a frying pan. Pour the egg mixture and make a fine omelette. Remove and cut into square pieces.

Heat the ghee in a pan. Add the chopped onions. When transparent, put in crushed green chillis and ginger. Saute for two minutes. Add cardamoms, cloves, cinnamon and tomatoes. Stir for a few minutes. Pour in the the coconut milk, with chilli, turmeric powder, pepper and salt. Bring to boil, put in the omelette pieces and simmer for five minutes. Add curry leaves and remove from heat. Serve hot with parathas.

WEEKLY WINNER

ANNAPURNA GHOSE, W. Bengal.

Mrs. Ghose wins Rs. 50/- for this week's best recipe plus a 9-cup Storefresh container from Trupti Industries, a gift hamper from Corn Products and P. Mittulaul Lalah and Sons, Madras.

MUTTON ROLL

500 grams minced meat
4 eggs
2- inch piece ginger
3 onions
6 cloves garlic
Chilli powder and salt to taste
1 cup bread crumbs
1 tsp. cornflour
½ cup ghee
3 tsps. Worcestershire sauce
3 tsps. vinegar

Boil two eggs, shell and keep aside. Beat the remaining two eggs. Slice one onion. Grind the remaining onions with garlic and ginger. Mix the minced meat and ground masala with salt, chilli powder, two teaspoons sauce and two teaspoons vinegar. Mix in half of the beaten egg. Grease a rolling board. Put the minced meat on top and spread in a square shape. Dip a thick, clean piece of cloth in water, squeeze dry and spread out by the side of the rolling board. Dip the two boiled eggs in beaten egg, crumbs, and then place them in the centre of the minced surface. Make a tight roll carefully with the help of a knife. Roll down on the cloth. Roll the cloth very carefully — rather tightly. Tie the two open sides with thread. Boil two and half cups of water in a dekchi, put down the roll in boiling water and cook. Turn once. Boil till about one cup of water remains. Remove and unwrap the cloth. Dip the meat roll in remaining beaten egg, crumbs and fry in ghee till brown. Remove, and slice. Arrange on a plate. Fry onion slices in the remaining ghee. Add cornflour and leftovers from the roll. Mix in salt, remaining sauce and vinegar. Pour over roll slices.

ANNOUNCEMENT MONTHLY COOKERY QUEEN CONTEST

All cookery contestants for the monthly Cookery Queen Contest have to send in their recipes, non-vegetarian or vegetarian, according to the subjects specified for each month. We give below subjects for the coming three months to enable you to send in your entries well in advance.

August, 1980
PASTA PREPARATIONS

September, 1980
PRESSURE-COOKED DISHES

October, 1980
CASSEROLE COOKING

All entries for August should reach us latest by July 5, September entries by August 5 and October entries by September 5, 1980.

COOKERY CONTESTANTS!

Revised Contest Rules

1. Each recipe must be accompanied by this coupon.
2. The author of each selected entry will be informed in advance and requested to send a passport size photograph of herself to be published along with her recipe.
3. The recipe must be original and not copied from a cookery book, a magazine of any other published material The prize-winner shall have to sign a declaration to that effect before the announcement is made and the prize awarded.

Address your entries to the Cookery Editor, EVE'S WEEKLY, Bombay Samachar Marg, Bombay—400 023.

MAX FACTOR

CAPTURES

THE MOODS

OF THE 80'S

N 14 NEW

LIPCOLOURS

FROM THE
BEAUTIFUL WORLD OF
MAX FACTOR...
NATURALLY

Frosted Nutmeg

Sienna

Rich Wineberry

Patrician Red

Roulette

Volcano Red

Iced Watermelon

Brandy Wine Ice

Golden Apple

Sun Frost Bronze

Siren Red

Gingerbread Frost

Candy Apple

Blushing Brown

BEAUTY

Shahnaz Husain, the well-known beauty therapist of Delhi, was recently invited to Bangkok by Pharbacos, Basle, Switzerland, to specialise in the use of a new organic liquid for the removal of skin blemishes. Her report.

A NEW INVENTION for blemish-free skin

Representatives from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore assembled in Bangkok recently to participate in the Pharbacos Skin Congress. I had been invited to represent India for this intensive four-day specialised course. Certificates were awarded to the delegates to enable them to use Pharbacos in their clinics. The entire training programme was held at the clinic of Madame Chamchan, a leading Thai beauty therapist, known for her natural therapies.

Warts, moles, birthmarks, pigmented skin, blemishes, skin tags and ugly, dark brown disfigurements of the skin are being removed by surgery, cauterisation, injections or by topically slicing off the part with a razor. But now Dr. Maardi of Switzerland has invented Pharbacos, an organic liquid which is safe and painless to use.

It is applied on the skin to be treated which takes less than a minute after cleaning the area with methelated spirit. The client is called after three days to judge whether a second application is necessary. When applied to the skin, Pharbacos leads to immediate intra-vital fixation of the tissue which produces a greyish-white colouration of the treated areas. The devitalised tissue dries out and gradually turns brown with increasing mummification. Healing is rapid and leaves no ugly marks which has been proved by tests under electron microscopy. The mummified scab sloughs off within two-five weeks.

At the Pharbacos Skin Congress held in Bangkok are Mr. Peter Haffner, Product Manager, Pharbacos, Dr. J.P. Cesarini, dermatologist and Pharbacos specialist from Paris, Dr. Kombara, Managing Director, Solco of South East Asia, Madame Chamchan and Shahnaz Husain.

Great skill and practice is required to control the depth of scarring when using the applicator, which determines the depth of Pharbacos within the skin blemish to be removed. The new skin formed requires care and the use of a fatty cream. Normally when skin blemishes are removed certain restrictions are imposed like prohibiting swimming, any other contact with water or application of make-up. In this method there are no restrictions.

Exposure to solar radiation or ultra-violet lamp is to be avoided so that there is no uneven pigmentation of the surrounding areas. When the scab is coming off should the client peel off the tag, it is bound to scar. Optimum healing requires correct application, proper treatment and perfect after-care. Sometimes the client feels a slight burning sensation which disappears within minutes after the liquid is applied.

Pharbacos is useful in removing plain warts, senile warts and pigment warts but should not be used for skin blemishes induced by pregnancy.

It is useful in the initial stages of superficial skin cancer. The speciality of this method of treatment is that the cells are not destroyed, hence the skin can go through a microscopic pathology test without the liquid disturbing the rejected tag. Pharbacos is used in several countries.

THAT'S A LAUGH!

A farmer was trying to sell his horse. After excercising it, he exclaimed to the prospective buyer: "Don't you admire his coat?"

"Coat's all right," said the prospect. "But I don't care for the pants."

* * *

Old Hen: "Let me give you a piece of good advice."

Young hen: "What is it?"

Old Hen: "An egg a day keeps the axe away."

* * *

A rural tragedy in rhymed prose:

Mule in a barnyard, lazy and sick. Boy with a pin at the end of a stick. Boy jabbed mule. Mule gave a lurch. (Services Monday at the Methodist Church).

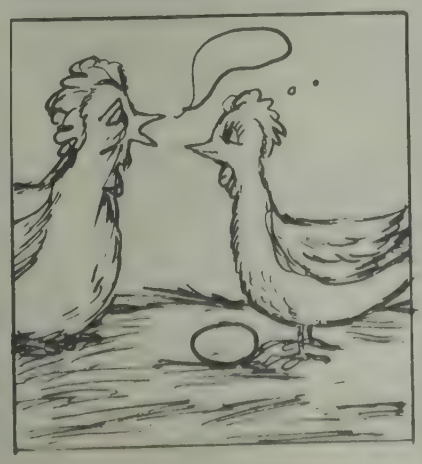
* * *

A farmer, just arrived in town, was walking across the street and happened to notice a sign on a hardware store: ',Cast Iron Sinks."

He stood for a minute and then said, "Any fool knows that."

* * *

A young city girl was vacationing in the country and became friendly with a farmer boy. One evening, as they were strolling across a pasture, they saw a cow and calf running noses in the accepted bovine fashion.



"Ah," said the farmer boy, "that sight makes me want to do the same."

"Well, go ahead," said the girl. "It's your cow."

* * *

"Do you want gas?" asked the dentist as he placed the patient in the chair.

Absent-minded patient: "Yes. About five gallons. And take a look at the oil as well."

* * *

Office boy (nervously): "Please, sir, I think you're wanted on the phone."

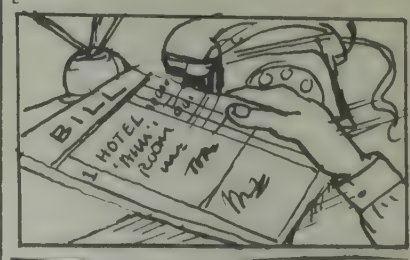
Employer: "You think! What's the good of thinking?"

"Well, sir, the voice at the other end said, 'Hello, is that you, you old idiot?"

* * *

"Do you know that Noah was the greatest financier that ever lived?"

"How do you make that out?"



"Well, he was able to float a company when the whole world was in liquidation."

* * *

Sales Manager: "What's this big item on your expense account?"

Travelling Salesman: "Oh, that's my hotel bill."

Sales Manager: "Well, in future, don't buy any more hotels."

Compiled by George Fegradoe

THE RIGHTS OF THE CONSUMER

A Guide To Consumer Protection Laws

Manohar T. Santwani

PART ONE

Sunita Kapoor bought a television set with a renowned brand name. At the time of its installation, the TV engineer struggled hard for two hours to bring the picture and the voice to function properly. What followed for the next six months was a harrowing experience for her, as the set went out of order almost every week. She lodged complaints with the firm on 22 occasions, requesting replacement of the set as there obviously appeared to be an inherent manufacturing defect in the set. Strangely enough, on every occasion, no sooner did the maintenance engineer leave, than the TV staggered back to the original condition, with the result that, subsequently, she refused to sign the 'job done satisfactorily' slips. The set was also called back thrice to the workshop without any appreciable improvement in its performance. The company, however, refused to replace the set, as the guarantee conditions stipulated only the repair and replacement of defective parts. The protracted correspondence with the company did not bring any positive response. Her heated arguments with the Managing Director did not help her either. Frustrated, she gave up the fight and arranged privately for the repair to be done by an expert engineer at an exorbitant cost—all during the guarantee period.

Rekha Anand bought a packet of 'Diebetes Test Strips' from a local chemist's shop for her diabetic mother. On using these strips for detection of approximate sugar content in the urine, she found none of the expected colour change in them. For confirmation she resorted to the usual benedict solution test and found high sugar content in the urine, which suggested that the strips were defective. She brought this to the notice of the chemist from whom she had bought the strips. He, of course, refused to oblige her with either a replacement or a refund of the cost. On the advice of a friend, she prepared a complaint letter addressed to the chemist suggesting that if no heed was taken of her complaint, the matter would be referred to the health authorities. The chemist sensing the impending danger of legal action, not only refunded the amount but also obliged her with an extra packet of strips 'as a token of goodwill'.

Numerous consumers face similar problems in their day-to-day transactions with dealers and manufacturers. However, some of them, like Sunita Kapoor, give up easily, while others, like Rekha Anand, refuse to accept the verdict of the dealer and assert their right.

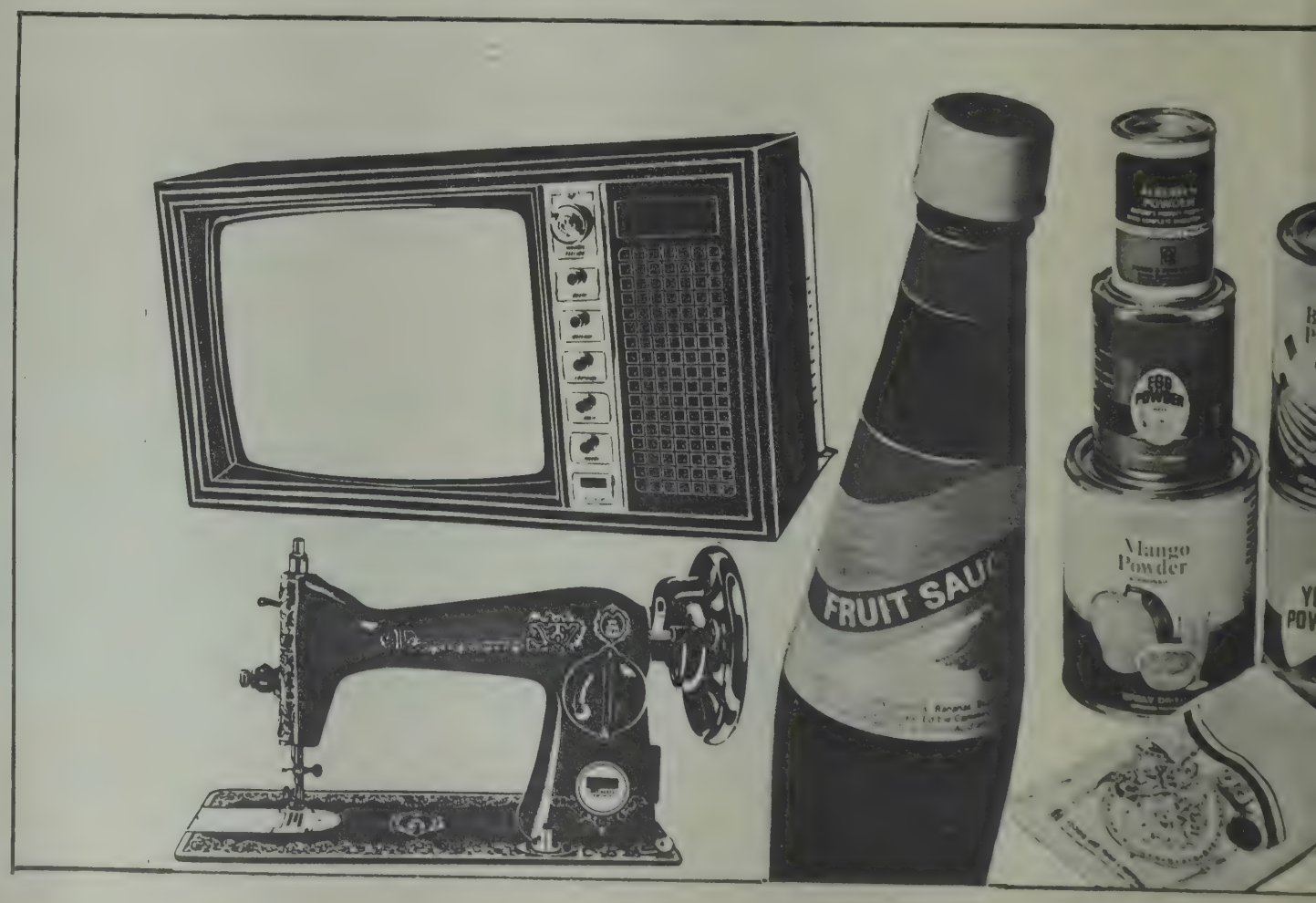
India is predominantly a sellers' market. There are a number of manufacturers and dealers who are scrupulous to the last word and action while there are others who indulge in malpractices like adulteration, deliberate cheating in quality, short-weighing, over-charging, etc. While most of the manufacturers and dealers have formed associations and federations to fight for their rights, the counterpart consumer-protection associations have not been developed to an effective level. Also, because of the chronic shortage of goods in India, there is little or no resistance from the consumer.

In a number of other countries, like the UK, Canada and the USA, dealers and manufacturers often find it difficult to ignore the voice of the consumer.

In this regard, Canada can be taken as an ideal country and as a champion of the consumer movement in the world. The Canadian Government has established a Consumer Corporate Department which has a dual control over the quality and safety of all the consumer goods in the field of food, drugs, electrical and electronic goods, etc. Interestingly, the Inspectors of this Department have been vested with powers under various Acts, like the Food and Drugs Act, the Textile Act, etc, and, therefore exercise better control over the quality and safety of these goods. All advertisements relating to any consumer product are channeled through this department so that the claims can be looked into and moderated to a practical degree.

In the UK, the Consumer Association has developed facilities for market surveys and comparative testing of various consumer goods, like tooth pastes, hair dryers, carpets, etc, and inform the consumer through various media about the comparative quality of different items and their price-worthiness. As a result, the British consumer is more enlightened on consumer issues and specific consumer goods than the Indian counter-part. Similarly, in the USA, the Consumers' Union of New York brings out periodic consumer reports which educate consumers on the quality of the various goods on the market. In a number of countries, like UK, the laws such as the Consumer Protection Act 1961 have been promulgated which enables legally enforceable safety standards to be imposed for certain goods. Such an Act is wanting in India and appears to be an absolute necessity, because in no other country is the consumer exploited so maliciously and grossly as in India.

Often, for various damages, the consumer is on his or her own and can only sue the offending manufacturer or supplier on a personal level. And, of course, the average consumer is often hesitant to resort to any legal action, because it involves a lot of money and time. Certain countries, like the UK, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden have introduced legal systems, largely as a result of pressure from consumer organizations, for small claims ranging



from £200 to £2000, which settle the matter to the consumer's satisfaction and at the same time do not impose undue financial burden on him.

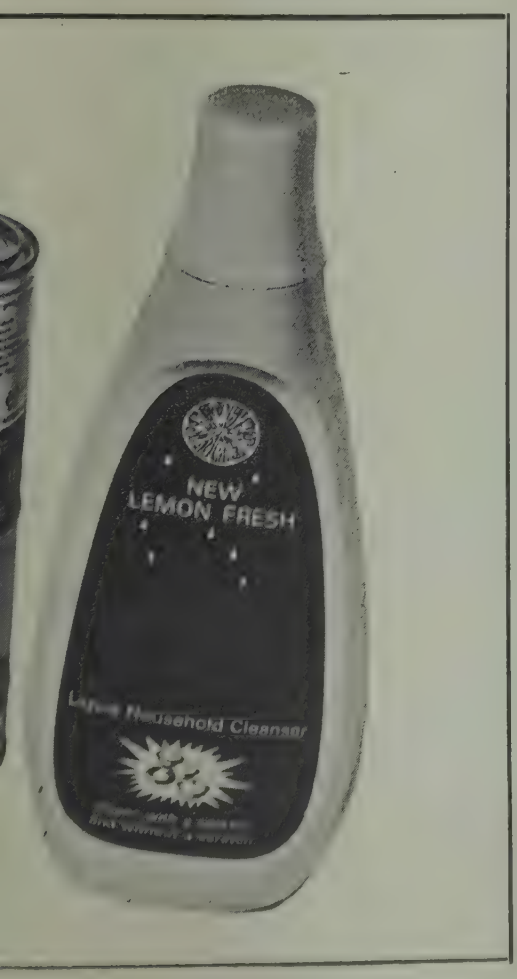
In some states in this country as well, small claims courts have been set up to expeditiously dispose of cases of this nature.

SAFEGUARDS

The consumers' feeble voice in India is too often lost in the high sounding and high-pressure advertisements for finished consumer goods and he is easily tempted to rely upon the sellers' word. He feels helpless as he has no means by which to test the goods for safety, quality and price-worthiness. There are, however, various **statutory and voluntary Acts, Rules and Regulations, as well as Orders,** to protect him. What should a consumer expect of the provisions of these Acts and whom should he turn to for help in case of a grievance?

Acts are laws passed by Parliament, while the **Rules, Regulations** and **Orders** are made by the concerned authorities under these Acts. However, these are also required to be laid before the Parliament for approval. The powers under the various Acts extend to legal action either under civil law, in which case an offender is mainly punished with a fine, or under crminal law, in which case an offender may be liable to a fine, imprisonment or both. Though all the Acts are independent in nature, some of these are complementary and supplementary to each other, while the others may overlap in their provisions. The interpretation of the various provisions of these Acts is left to the courts.

The consumer should know about the general and basic provisions of various Acts and Orders which protect him and invest him with certain rights to resort to legal action in case of a grievance when all else fails. The salient features of the various Acts, Orders, Rules and Regulations relevant to consumers in India are highlighted below.



SPURIOUS SAMPLES

In 1977 Food Law Authorities all over the country drew around 1.5 lakh samples and found that over 25 thousand samples were adulterated. Of about 25 thousand prosecutions launched, over 16 thousand dealers/manufacturers were convicted for violation of the food laws. Surprisingly,of the enormous size of samples drawn for analysis, not a single one was sent by any consumer — an appalling case of consumer apathy.

The picture is, however, different in the case of drugs, where a number of complaints of over-charging, and suspected misbranding of drugs were lodged by consumers, which provided an important clue to health authorities in unearthing manufacture of spurious drugs, production of sub-standard drugs, as well as cases of deliberate violation of drug-pricing. The government looks for active consumer cooperation and participation in the fields of quality control and enforcement of various Acts laid down for the ultimate benefit of the consumer.

RAW AND PROCESSED FOODS

Food forms the most important consumer item and covers all items ranging from agricultural commodities to processed products. As a consumer, you are mainly protected by the **Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (PFA)** as well as the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder, which are administered by the Central and State Health Authorities. In addition, there are many Orders which help you get goods and food of standard quality, and purity, and processed under hygienic conditions.

The law makes it a criminal offence to sell any food product unfit for human consumption and explains what constitutes adulteration or mis-branding of foods. **An article of food will be considered adulterated if it turns out to be different from that which it is declared to be; contains any substance which makes it injurious; is prepared, packed or kept under unhygienic conditions; and contains any filthy, putrid, rotten, diseased animal or vegetable substance or is insect-infested or is otherwise unfit for human consumption.** In addition, **an article of food should be considered adulterated if it contains prohibited preservatives or permitted preservatives in excess of permitted limits.** The Rules prescribe compositional standards of various foods and **any article of food will be considered adulterated if its quality or purity falls below the prescribed standard or if its constituents are present in quantities not within the prescribed limits of variability.** Similarly, **any packet of food will be considered misbranded if it is an imitation of or a substitute for any other article of food under the name of which it is sold or false claims are made on the label.** It is also **necessary that** all proprietary **foods which are otherwise not covered in the PFA Rules should necessarily give the composition of the food and its ingredients in the descending order of composition.**

For instance water added to milk, mouldy bread or jam, putrefied meat, pork or sausages, sale of **kesari** dal or its addition to any other dal, and any food article made appealing by the addition of an unpermitted colour will fall under the category of adulterated foods.

Generally, food inspectors appointed by the Health Authorities regularly draw samples from manufacturers, dealers and retailers to ascertain the conformity to the prescribed level of quality. Persons found guilty of adulterating an article of food which is non-injurious are liable to a minimum punishment of six months' imprisonment, which may extend up to six years with a fine of not less than Rs. 1000. In cases where adulterated food is of injurious nature, the punishment can be imprisonment for six years with a fine of not less than Rs. 2000. However, if an article of food, when consumed by any person is likely to cause death or harm, the punishment can extend upto life imprisonment, with a minimum fine of Rs 5000.

It is interesting to note that in case of a grievous hurt or injury due to adulterated food, the Act does not provide for any compensation to you, but you on your own can resort to any legal action against the firm, taking shelter under various other laws. For proper protection of the consumer's health, **it is essential that there be a mechanism, to be operated either by the administrators of the Act or other relevant organizations, to recall all foods found to be injuriously adulterated so that further distribution of the adulterated food can be checked.** Similarly, **consumers should demand an inbuilt provision in the Act to ensure compensation to the affeced persons where a dealer or manufacturer has been convicted with an offence of injurious adulteration.**

According to the Act, **even a purchaser can have an article of food analysed by different public analysts on payment of the prescribed fee.** However, a purchaser has to follow the proper procedure of taking a sample of food item and sending it for analysis to the public analyst. If the food is found to be adulterated, the purchaser is entitled to a refund of the fees paid. Hence, whenever you suspect any defect in an article of food, either in taste or appearance, you should **immediately report to the food inspector of the local area or the concerned health officer.**

FOOD ADDITIVES

Food additives form an indispensible part of present-day food-processing techniques, whether to enhance visual appeal or to help preservation. Besides the listing of the permitted food colours, preservatives, anti-oxidants, emulsifying agents, stabilizing agents, etc, **the PFA makes it compulsory for all manufacturers of synthetic coal-tar food colours to obtain the ISI mark for their products** so that you can look for the ISI mark and use it for various purposes. **However, no such provision exists for other food additives like potassium metabisulphite, sodium benzoate, etc, which, if not of food-grade quality, can be harmful to human health.** Presently, the various additives used for different purposes are either of

THE RIGHTS OF THE CONSUMER

food quality, chemical quality, textile quality or for photography. However, it is difficult to trace their quality once they are added to the food. It is, therefore, left to the manufacturers to exercise their own judgement in choosing the additives for use in their preparations. As the existing toxicological studies have only been made for various additives of food quality, a proper check to ensure the use of only food-grade additives assumes special importance. **Consumers should, therefore, demand that food additives (except synthetic colours) should be pretested by an independent organisation, because testing facilities may not be available with individual manufacturers of processed foods who use these food additives.** This will be a major safety step for the consumer, because many of these additives could be carcinogenic. So besides your right to buy food colours of proper food-grade quality, it is your duty to **report to the health authorities or to the ISI if any synthetic food colours are sold in the market without the ISI mark.**

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTS

The production and sale of fruit and vegetable products like jams, jellies, squashes, pickles, synthetic beverages and processed vegetables are governed by an allied statutory Order known as the **Fruit Products Order, 1955. This Order makes it compulsory for the processors of such products to obtain a manufacturing licence, defines various products and lays down the conditions of labelling, packking and marketing.** It is obligatory for the processors to comply with the minimum hygienic conditions and quality requirements stipulated therein. For instance, no fruit product containing less than 25 per cent of fruit juice in its composition shall be described as fruit syrup, fruit juice, squash, cordial or crush, and shall otherwise be described as synthetic syrup. It is also not permitted to add any colour to various tomato products like ketchup, puree and sauce. However similar products prepared from other vegetables, like pumpkin, can be coloured. You should expect to find the lot or the date of manufacture in a coded form on the container and **report the number to the Director (Fruit and Vegetable Preservation), Food and Nutrition Board, Dept. of Food, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi, or his representatives in your state in the event of any complaint or suspected malpractice.**

Similarly, vegetable oil products like cooking oils, **vanaspati,** shortenings, margarine, etc, are governed by three different Orders, **the Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1947; the Vegetable Oil Products (Standards of Quality) Order, 1972; and the Solvent Extracted Oil, De-oiled Meal and Edible Flour (Control) Order, 1967.** These Orders are **administered by the Vegetable Oil Products Controller for India, New Delhi. They basically control the quality and composition of various oils and oil products, and regulate their manufacture and distribution.** For instance, the vanaspati is required to be made from a number of specified oils, along with one or more of the refined oils to the minimum level of 10 per cent. In addition, it is obligatory to add Vitamin A to the level of 25 international units to vanaspati.

The Order on Solvent Extracted Oils and its products identifies various solvents which can be used for extraction of oil and limits their residues, as these could be harmful in exaggerated amounts.

Similarly, **the Sugar (Control) Order, 1966, regulates the manufacture and sale of sugar.** The sugar sold through fair price shops is known as levy sugar, acquired by the government directly from the sugar factories, and the sugar sold in the free market is called free-sale sugar. In India, sugar is produced to conform to different grades, based on the combination of two colour shades of the crystals — namely, 30 and 29 — and five grain sizes — namely, A,B,C,D, and E. Thus, E29 is the lowest grade, with the smallest grain size and of a slightly duller colour than E30. **This grade of sugar** is more prone to adulteration with chalk or starch powder and generally contains more extraneous particles. The quality of sugar is again governed by the specifications laid down under PFA Rules. The price varies according to the grade of sugar and not the quality in terms of 'clean' or 'dirty' sugar or the sucrose content. You must demand clean sugar.

Fight the summer heat coolly.

Sharbat Rooh Afza not only quenches your thirst but cools your whole body also. Its 16 cooling herbs and pure fruit juices really cool you, refresh you, relax you.

SHARBAT ROOH AFZA

'Nothing like it'

We know that it is dangerous to consume stale or putrefied meat or meat products or the meat derived from diseased animals. It can lead to what is commonly termed as ptomaine poisoning. Hence **it is obligatory for all slaughter-houses and meat processing factories to employ veterinarians for ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of meat animals.** With a view to ensure this and to check the clandestine slaughter of animals under unhygienic conditions, the **Meat Food Products Order, 1973** ensures licensing of all meat-handling and processing units.

It also lays down the conditions of basic hygiene for processing of meat. Before buying meat from a meat stall, you must look for the inspection stamp on the animal carcasses. Similarly, a swollen can of meat is indicative of microbiological spoilage and should be rejected. Sale of such products is prohibited by law. **In case of any complaint you should contact the Municipal Health Officer of your area or the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection.**

However, in case you order your favourite dish of chicken curry and find that it contains shreds of goat meat as well, better hold on before raising your accusing finger at the waiter or the hotel manager. You can't prove it, nor is it easy for the test authorities to differentiate between various types of meats, especially when it is cooked, except by tedious anti-sera tests. Moreover, the facilities for such tests are not always available with the public analysts.

ADULTERATION AHOY!

The extent of adulteration and exploitation of innocent consumers can best be judged from the following interesting episode.

An irate customer dragged a hotel manager to court on charges of adulteration of chicken meat. The Manager, while pleading guilty of adulteration, confessed that he had adulterated the chicken-meat with horse-meat in the proportion of 50:50. Asked to elaborate on the ratio, he finally admitted it: one chicken to one horse!

Kala Niketan creates an exclusive new saree design for you this month.

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TRUE CONFESSION

MY WIFE KEPT ME

"This relationship is positively incestuous," she said. I looked at the young girl sitting on the bed, with kohl in her eyes and a laut set to her lips. I had seen her grow up from her childhood days, romping on the grounds and climbing trees, her two plaits flying behind her. When she had fallen down and bruised herself, I had picked her up in my arms and consoled her. Now I was faced with a painful situation. This very child was keeping me at bay.

"You're my uncle," she said. "My uncle. I can never forget the fact." I went and stood on the veranda and smoked a cigarette, wondering how I had landed myself in such an impossible situation.

It had happened so suddenly that even now I found it difficult to adjust to the fact. I had stayed for years with my sister, ever since she had been widowed, in fact. It was her plea that had taken me there, giving up my studies half-way through college.

She had been married early in life and had four children in quick succession. Then her husband had become a victim of cancer. It was a great shock to all of us, particularly my parents, who urged me to go and stay with her.

"It will be different with a man in the house," my mother had said. "How will she manage so many small children?"

"Yes," my father had endorsed. "You can do your final examination in Trichi. Maybe, you can do a post-graduate course also there. Sudha has suffered a great shock. She needs someone strong like you."

Sudha was a wreck. I was shocked to see her. I consoled her, saying everything would be all right. Yet I had doubts! I was in my teens and my parents had entrusted me with a heavy responsibility. It was not so much a financial burden as a psychological one. I was to be her protector, guardian of her children. And there was no other male member in the family capable of taking on the responsibility. My father was too old and weak to travel and my mother would go nowhere without him. My sister had no in-laws. That left only me.

The children were small. The eldest was four. Then there were the twins, Raju and Kunju, who were two and a half years old. Anupama was barely a year old. The house was in shambles. The children had been neglected. The eldest was running a fever and my sister Sudha had not even bothered to call a doctor.

I touched the child's head. It was burning hot. "Has he eaten?" I asked.

"He retches up everything he eats," she said.

"Who's the doctor here?"

She mumbled a name.

"Where does he stay? Does he have a phone?"

"Oh, why do you bother me with all these things?" she screamed in a hysterical way. "If he dies so much the better."

"Sudha!" I shouted, shocked. Then left her alone. She was a woman under stress. We did not know it then, but her husband's death had almost unhinged her mind. She sat for hours, just staring into space and had to be reminded to eat her food.

They were not badly off for money. Her husband had a prosperous business, owning a chain of small wayside hotels along the highway. He had worn himself to the bone during his lifetime, running back and forth between the far-flung locales to check how his managers were doing. With him gone, they had a field day now. So I had to pay a visit to the various hotels, see the family lawyer about the inheritance, settle her bank affairs.

But first things first. I got the doctor who should have been brought a good week ago in the first place. He examined the child's eyes as he lay listless on the huge bed. "How long has he been like this?" he asked me. I looked at my sister. "Eight days," she said.

"And you call me now?" he almost shouted. "What were you doing all these days?"

She burst into tears. I explained what had happened. He shook his head sadly and wrote out a prescription. "I'll do my best," he said, "but it may be too late. The child is completely dehydrated. Better take him to a hospital, he'll have to be put on glucose."

But this did not help. The child died two days later. Sudha took the tragedy with indifference, displaying no emotion whatsoever.

I abandoned all thoughts of continuing my studies. There was too much to be done. I had a frank talk with the lawyer and discovered Sudha's husband was much better off than we had presumed. In addition to the hotels he had investments in shares which were worth a fortune.

"They'll all go to his wife now. All we have to do is get a succession certificate. The rest will be easy." I did the needful and so all the property and money were transferred to my sister's name. She blindly signed all the papers I placed before her. "It is good you are here," said the lawyer to me one day. "Another man would have taken advantage of your sister's gullible nature."

The children grew up. Sudha was a vacuous, dreamy thing, loitering about the house and smiling to herself occasionally. The burden of running the house and hotels and looking after her financial affairs fell on me. I managed in the best way I could. There were servants of course all over the rambling house, seeing to our needs. But one cannot leave everything to servants. The children, sensing their mother's dissociation, grew very attached to me. Anupama in particular was a most adorable child. She always held out her hands to me when I got back from my tiring visits to the hotels. It was her mute way of telling me she wanted to be carried.

The following year father died. His going was a blow, but it was a relief to me in another way. It meant mother could now join me. With her coming, things were easier. There was someone to supervise the housework when I was away looking after the business.

Sudha's vacant spells frightened my mother.

"Do you think she is possessed?" asked my mother. I said I didn't know. "Why didn't you write to me that she had become like this?" mother scolded. "To tell the truth, I just had no time," I said "Besides, the doctor to whom I talked said it was a phase and she would grow out of it. He prescribed some pills. Tranquilisers he called them."

"Passing phase indeed!. There is a demon in her which must be exorcised."

So she made trips to distant temples with Sudha and also got holy men to work their chant on the young widow, but her condition remained the same.

Years passed. Raju and Kunju were attending a school. Two years later Anupama too joined them. She was a lively child and in the evenings the house echoed with their childish quarrels and laughter.

Passers-by would not have known, listening to the laughter, that this was a house that tragedy had touched. It was ony when they saw the crazy woman wandering on the grounds, with uncombed hair and saree

AT BAY

all awry, beckoning them with simpering giggles, that they stopped and pointed out to the palatial house as the dwelling of a mad woman whose husband had been seized from her in her prime.

"Mother," I said one day. "Why don't you keep Sudha indoors?"

"Haven't I tried?" she asked. "How can I control her? She has the strength of a devil and I am an old woman."

"What about the servants?"

"What can they do? I can't ask servants to take her inside forcibly, nor keep her there by force."

And so news of her insanity spread far and wide.

"You know about Kannan's widow?" they whispered in the town.

"She has gone stark raving mad after his death."

"Who's the young fellow who stays with her?"

"Her brother, it seems. There is an old mother, too. But nobody can do anything. What's the good of having so much money? It does not always bring happiness."

The years passed and the business grew. From small wayside hotels, the Kannan empire became a chain of huge residential hotels in the principal towns of the area. This meant more work for me and more staff, trained in hotel management. I did a correspondence course to enlighten myself first, not having the time to get away for a full-fledged training at a catering college.

Mother said to me, "I pity you, Govind. You sacrificed the best years of your life for the business and now you have no time to pursue your studies."

"Oh, who wants to study now?" I asked. "I'm too old."

"Yes, you're thirty-five," she said. "High time you got married."

For years I had resisted all attempts by her to get me married, giving some excuse or the other. The major one was the fact that I didn't want to subject a strange young woman to living in a house where a mad woman roamed about. Adjustments between a newly married couple are complicated enough without the additional irritant of a psychopathic burden like my sister. Maybe

There were tears in her eyes, the candour of a child pleading with its parent to understand. I knew then that I could never touch her in the way a man touches his wife

mother had understood my problem because she had left me alone after the first few efforts. She knew I could not free myself of the albatros that fate had tied around my neck. Whether I liked it or not, I was stuck with the hotels and the responsibility of this household for the rest of my life.

It occurred to me several times that I could perhaps put Sudha in an institution for the insane, but mother shrank from such a step. She said they would not care for her properly. "Let her be here," she said. "After all, the house is big enough. What does it matter if she roams around the grounds? She is quite harmless. At least here we can keep an eye on her."

So Sudha stayed.

Raju and Kunju were both sent abroad for further studies. Mother now turned her mind to the task of finding a husband for eighteen-year-old Anupama. It proved a formidable undertaking. With the stigma of insanity in the family, no one was willing to take her into their family in spite of the large dowry we offered.

"Granny," Anupama said one day to my mother. "Let me too go abroad." But mother wouldn't hear of it. Her orthodoxy rebelled against the idea.

Just before her nineteenth birthday, mother said to me, "There is only one solution for our predicament."

"What is it?" I asked.

"You must marry her, Govind."

I looked at her aghast.

"Yes, Govind," she insisted. "Didn't you know it is quite customary among the people in our community for uncles to marry their nieces?"

"No, mother," I replied firmly. "I'm sorry. I cannot. Somehow I can't imagine Anupama as my wife."

"It' is not such an unnatural thing," she said.

I looked away, and then said. "Can't you understand, mother? I have seen her grow up from a toddler, bathed her, sat her on my knee, carried her around. How can I marry her now?"

"It is the only thing to do," she insisted doggedly. "Or else some man may marry her just for the money she'll inherit and then treat her badly."

I stared at her. This aspect had not struck me at all.

For days I thought about it. I lay awake at night. The age difference was too much, I reasoned. Then I thought of how much worse it would be if some younger man married her for the sake of the dowry and then neglected her. Or worse still, perhaps killed her.

I gave my consent to the marriage. I don't know what tactics mother used on Anupama, but she was willing too. It was only on our wedding night that I learnt of her aversion to me as a husband. "This relationship is incestuous," she cried. "Don't touch me. You re my uncle, like a father."

"Why did you agree to marry me then?" I asked.

"Because of granny," she said. "She may have done something drastic to herself. I did not want that. We have suffered enough tragedy in the family."

"Anupama. . ." I began.

"Please, uncle I beg of you. Let it be a marriage only in name. I love you only as a girl loves her father, don't you understand? You replaced the father I never had."

There were tears in her eyes, the candour of a child pleading with its parent to understand. I knew then that I could never touch her in the way a man touches his wife. It had to be a different kind of relationship.

"What do you want to do?" I asked. "What future is there for us in a relationship of this kind?"

"I won't grudge you your freedom," she said. "Please uncle, feel free to go to any other woman who takes your fancy. All I want is to be left alone."

She burst into tears. I wanted to take her in my arms and console her, but couldn't do so. There was a distance between us now.

"Anupama," I said. "There is a way out."

"What?"

"I will send you abroad for further studies. Mother won't object, now that you are married to me."

She looked gratefully at me.

"Will you really?" she asked eagerly.

"Yes," I said. "We will tell mother it is only for a year at the most."

She wiped her eyes. Then I said what had been on the tip of my tongue, but which I had been hesitating to utter.

"Let us keep up this pretence of a happy marriage, at least during mother's lifetime," I said. "After that we can seek divorce by consent"

"Oh uncle, you're wonderful!" she said and kissed me impulsively on the cheek, in the childlike way I knew of old.

Today Anupama has been abroad for eight months. I made a trip there on the pretext of seeing her, but never even went to the town where she stayed. She wrote mother letters full of lies about what a happy time we were having in Detroit, while I was in New York.

She phoned me once, telling me what a happy relationship she has struck with an American boy. I wish her well. But I will never marry, even if mother should die and I get a divorce from Anupama. I have so many commitments, so many responsibilities. They began when Kannan died and left me to salvage his business and look after his family And I can't get a strange woman into this now.

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RANJEETA:

IMPULSIVE, BUT GUTSY

Jyothi Venkatesh

The venue was the posh banquet hall of Hotel Poonam International at Worli, Bombay. Director Ambrish Sangal was picturising a dance number involving Ranjeeta, Raj Babbar, Deepak Parashar and a large number of heavily made-up extras for Mohan Kumar's "Aap To Aise Na The".

These days, it has really become a Herculean task to grab Ranjeeta for an interview. Either she will play hard to get or she will ask you drop in on one of her sets at far-flung locations like the Film City at Goregaon or Essel Studios at Trombay. Like she said when I pinned her down for a few minutes after the pack-up in her room in the hotel, she has become disillusioned with the press.

What Ranjeeta forgets in her anxiety to make the press a scapegoat is the fact that she herself is to blame for whatever faux-pas she has committed through the press. A couple of months ago, a journalist landed up at her pad to interview her. Ranjeeta had just arrived after a trip to Shirdi. When the journalist asked her how her career was faring, Ranjeeta told her that she was fed up with her career and felt like quitting films and taking up **sanyas.** The journalist flashed it as a cover story and Ranjeeta had to issue denial after denial in trade papers because she was worried producers would stop coming to her with offers.

Today, Ranjeeta has more films on hand than she can hope to handle. The list which her handsome secretary supplied me with on the spot ran into three pages, and her leading men ranged from Mithun Chakravorty and Deepak Parashar to Rishi Kapoor and Vinod Mehra.

She flares up if you happen to ask her whether it was true that she insists on having Mithun Chakravorty as her leading man in film after film. "Far from the truth. It is the producers who feel that Mithun and I click as a star pair and approach me with offers co-starring Mithun. To tell you the truth, I had even turned down the offer of producer-director Ravi Nagaich teaming me with Mithun for his "Wardaat", even though he was keen that I should co-star with Mithun in the film because Mithun and I had worked in his 'Surakksha'."

And thanks to Ranjeeta, Kaajal Kiran is doing the role which Ranjeeta had turned down. Ranjeeta has no regrets that she doesn't have bigger leading men as her co-stars. The only film she has with Amitabh is "Satte Pe Satta", in which she has been cast along with Hema, and the one film she has with Shatrughan Sinha is "Hathkadi", in which Reena Roy has also been cast with her.

"What matters is your role and not who your leading man is," Ranjeeta says. And Ranjeeta does have a point there. In spite of the fact that her maiden starrer, "Laila Majnu", was a super hit, for nearly two years after the film was released she didn't have even a single offer because Rishi Kapoor used to turn down every offer teaming him with her. Today Ranjeeta has not one but two films with Rishi Kapoor — "Maang Sajado Meri" and Salim-Javed's "Zamana".

"Why should I play haughty and turn down films with newcomers? Even if I am offered a film today opposite Sachin, who was my leading man in "Ankhiyon Ki Jharokhonse", I would certainly accept it, if and only if my role is good. In fact I am doing a multistar film with Sachin called "Krodhi" in which Dharmendra, Zeenat, Shashi and Hema lead the cast. I only detest having to go around as a glamour puss, with no characterisation to my role."

Though it is doubtful whether her role in films like "Dhuan" (in which she has been cast along with stars like Raakhee, Amjad Khan and Mithun) and "Rajput" (where her co-stars are Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna, Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini and Tina Munim) will be worthwhile, Ranjeeta is thrilled to have bagged a small but meaty role in a film called "Dard".

What one admires about Ranjeeta is her guts. She refuses to play up to her leading men. And even though Akbar Khan is at the bottom-most rung of the ladder of stardom today, she is steadfastly sticking to him through thick and thin and eventually plans to marry him if she is able to get the "green signal" from her parents.

Unlike most of the other heroines, you can always bump into a bespectacled Ranjeeta quite often without traces of any make-up. What one wonders is how Robby, as she is called affectionately by people around her, is able to carry spare tyres around her waist in spite of the fact that these days she can be seen shunting from one set to another working in three different shifts a day. And that too, carting along with her a large entourage consisting of her father, sisters, secretary, hair-dresser, make-up man, driver and an errand boy.

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CONSUMER AWARENESS

The right to safety, the right to choose, the right to be informed and the right to be heard are the fundamental rights of every consumer.

LESS WEIGHT FOR MORE MONEY

Krishna Basrur

Have you noticed recently that paper bags used for packaging in shops are becoming heavier and heavier? Sometimes they have a strip of cardboard pasted into the base — perhaps to strengthen it. Sometimes sand is mixed with the paste. Some bags are made of thick calendar paper and weigh as much as 50 gms. Whatever the reason for the weight, the result is the same — you get less weight for your money. In the case of the bag weighing 50 gms. the housewife would lose 10 per cent of her purchase if she bought half a kilogram of the commodity.

Though retailers may not be to blame for the weight of these bags, they are certainly responsible for giving you short weight if they do not suitably counterpoise the weight of the bag before placing the commodity in it. Wherever possible you should insist that the commodity be weighed in the pan and then transferred to the bag, if it seems very heavy.

Buyers of sweets will have noticed that while most sweet shop attendants balance the cardboard box used for sweets by putting the lid on the other pan or by weighing the sweets on a greased paper only, some will try to get out of doing this, knowing that the consumer is too timid and unsure of her rights to protest. The only answer to this approach is not to be timid and to assert your rights quietly but firmly and tell him that under the law you are entitled to the net weight of the commodity. If he is adamant, walk out of the shop and look for a more honest shop-keeper. You do not have to pay for cardboard at Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 a kg. — the price of most sweets today. This is only one of the many ways in which consumers lose money through unfair weighing and measuring practices.

HOW TO BILK THE CONSUMER

The Weights and Measures Departments of most states have choice collections of illegal weights and measures which have been seized from the market. In these collections there are weights from which metal has been gouged out at the base, fluid measures deliberately dented at the bottom to make them deliver less milk, metre rods which have been cut and rejoined in the middle so that every consumer loses a little on every metre of cloth purchased in the shop. Weighing pans have strips of metal attached below to increase the weight of the pan in which the commodity is placed. Strong magnets have been detected under the pan containing the commodity. Fluid measures for kerosene may have wax or other material stuck on the inside bottom.

A practice that seems to have stood the test of time is that of tying a small piece of string to the base of one pan when buying waste paper. The 'raddiwalla' exerts a downward pressure on the pan holding the string between his toes and is thus able to get as much extra paper as he can without arousing suspicion.

When weighing small fish, small weights may be mixed with them in such a way as to elude observation.

The wayside hawker who holds his scales in his hand may be perfectly honest, but if he is not he can easily manipulate the beam in such a way as to deliver less of the commodity. That is why the Weights and Measures Dejartment warns consumers that shopkeepers are required to suspend the scales from the ceiling or use automatic dial type weighing machines and that they should patronise only shops using these.

RS. 800 CRORES LOST EVERY YEAR

The Weights and Measures Law Revision Committee, better known as the Maitra Committee from its Chairman, Shri S. K. Maitra, estimated in its report to the Government in 1972 that even a 1 per cent error in weighing operations would cost the Indian Consumer Rs. 160 crores a year. In actuality, this percentage would be closer to 5 per cent and the loss would be about Rs. 800 crores.

For the past ten years the Consumer Guidance Society of India has been periodically surveying flour mills ('Chakkis') in Bombay and has repeatedly drawn the attention of the Government to the fact that the mills are not obeying the directives issued from time to time by the Weights and Measures Department.

According to Government notifications, all flour mills are required to have weighing scales or dial type weighing machines on their premises and to weigh the grain and the flour after grinding. The loss of flour permissible during grinding is only 1.5 per cent. In other words, the customer must get back in flour 98.5 per cent of the weight of grain given for grinding.

Flour mills claim that they are too hard-pressed for time to weigh the grain and ask the customers to weigh the flour if they wish. Many mills, however, keep the scales tucked away in a dark corner and some have no weights below 500 gms.

Flour mills are not owned by the machine operators. They generally belong to prosperous businessmen who own whole chains of flour mills and can well afford to equip them properly with automatic weighing machines or extra staff to man the weighing scales.

In the State of Gujarat, flour mills give receipts indicating the weight of flour given. If one State can enforce weighing, why should others be lax in doing so? In response to complaints meetings have been called by the **Upalokayukta** in Bombay, at which the Dy. Director, Weights and Measures, gave the information that inspectors had visited 495 mills in the course of the year and had booked nine mills for legal action.

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action. Between November 1978 and December 1979, the courts had convicted the owners of 29 mills and imposed fines amounting to Rs. 3925. There are over 2300 mills in Maharashtra and the above figures show that the inspectors do not visit the mills even once a year.

The pressure of work on the department makes it imperative for consumers to assist the department by bringing to its notice all cases of mills which give short weight, fail to weigh the grain and flour, refuse to keep complaint books or tear out complaints which have been entered.

The Dy. Director, Weights and Measures, has assured consumers that they will not be required to appear in court and that their identity will not be disclosed. Information is required solely to make the inspectors' work of detecting malpractices easier.

MODERNISATION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES LAWS

Since Independence, the country has been moving steadily towards a more modern and uniform system of weights and measures. Prior to 1947, the situation regarding weights and measures was one of total confusion. A survey conducted by the National Sample Survey showed that 143 systems of weights and measures were in use in 100 villages. Terms like 'maund' and 'seer' stood for different quantities in different regions, with the result that inter-state trading became very difficult and led to much litigation. The need for a unified and standard system of weights and measures began to be felt with increasing intensity and in 1956 Parliament enacted the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, replacing all current systems by the metric system by stages over a period of ten years. In spite of an initial period of confusion, during which consumer's ignorance of the new system was fully exploited, the unique and beautiful simplicity of the new system has led to its easy acceptance by all.

The Weights & Measures Law Revision Committee (The Maitra Committee) set up by Government for this purpose submitted its report in May 1972, along with a draft Standards of Weights and Measures Bill which is currently in the process of enactment by Parliament. Notifications are issued from time to time, bringing sections of the Act into force. Almost all the sections relating to consumer transactions had become operative by April 1, 1980.

Of special interest to consumers are the sections dealing with packaged commodities. These will fill the legislative gap left by the lapsing of the Packaged Commodities Order passed as an interim arrangement in 1976.

The new Act gives consumers of packaged commodities information regarding the contents of these packages which was not available to them before the Packaged Commodities Order was passed.

Consumers will recollect that formerly it was not obligatory to mark the weight of the contents on the package. Filling of detergent packets, for example, was done by volume, and wide variations were observed in the quantity of powder. A survey carried out by the Consumer Guidance Society of India in 1971 showed a difference of as much as 270 gms. between two packets of detergent of the same brand. This was blamed by the manufacturers on the machine dispensing the powder. Today all packages have to give the net weight of the contents.

The declaration of weight must be "legible, prominent, definite, plain and unambiguous". Qualifications like "maximum", "not less than", "average", "about", "approximately", etc. are not permitted.

Former descriptions of sizes so familiar on toothpaste tubes and other household products such as "giant", "economy", "king", "family", "large", "extra large", which are likely to create an exaggerated or misleading impression are no longer allowed.

The qualification, "when packed", is not allowed except in the case of certain specified commodities like soaps, non-soapy detergent, etc.

LOOK FOR THIS INFORMATION ON PACKAGED COMMODITIES

In addition to the net weight, all packaged commodities should bear on the package :

a. The name and address of the mannufacturer or packer.

b. The common or generic names of the commodity so that the consumer knows clearly what the package contains.

c. If a number of items are packed or sold by num-

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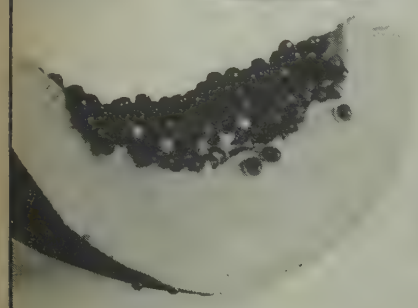
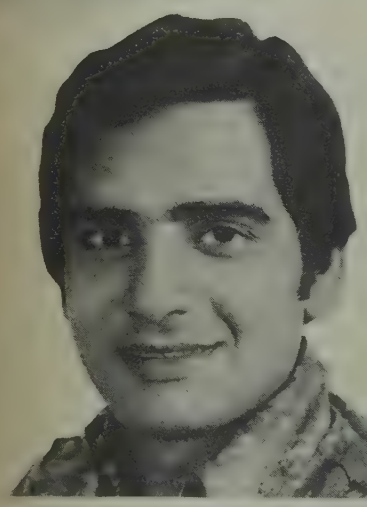
Leonard chills wine in Paris



Leonard cools papayas in Patna



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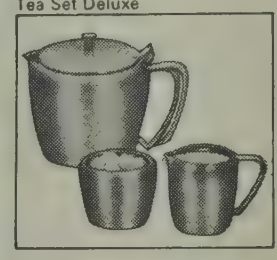

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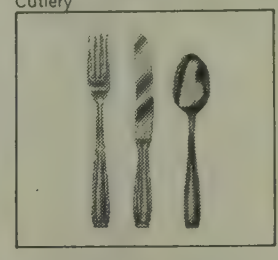

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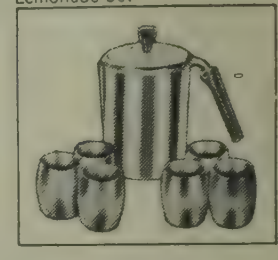

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ber in a package, the number of items in the package and dimensions of the contents, where relevant, as in the case of sheets, napkins, pillow cases.

d. The month and year in which the commodity was manufactured or packaged (some exceptions for which this is not required are packaged bread, cheese, ice cream, butter, vegetables, fruit, fish, meat, beverages and milk in returnable bottles and L.P.G. cylinders. Canned items are not exempted from the above requirement).

e. If the retail sale price is mentioned by the manufacturer or packer on the package, the unit sale price must be given. The unit sale price of a commodity is the price in terms of a specified unit. This enables the consumer to compare the prices of various brands without making complicated mental calculations. Every brand of detergent, for example, would carry a declaration of the price of 100 gms. of the powder. Every fruit drink would carry the price of 100 ml. on the label. This would be in addition to the retail price of the package.

PRICE MARKING FORMULA CONFUSES CONSUMERS

Price marking was introduced by the Packaged Commodities Order and is obligatory under the new Act but is rendered extremely complicated by the fact that Sales Tax and octroi vary from state to state and municipality to municipality. In Maharashtra there are 93 categories of commodities with varying rates of tax. It is not possible to have a uniform system of price marking for inter-state trading. Currently, the price marked may be

1) Exclusive of local taxes
2) Exclusive of freight, central sales tax and local taxes
3) Exclusive of taxes
4) Retail sale price

These formulae only succeed in totally confusing the consumer who has not the faintest notion what the various taxes amount to and has to take the shop-keeper's word for the retail price.

To guide consumers regarding the correct price to be paid, wholesalers issue price lists to retailers, showing the maximum retail price, inclusive of all taxes, payable in that area. Consumers can best protect themselves against overcharging by asking to see the price list, which is required to be prominently displayed in the shop. No dealer may charge more than the marked price **but he can charge less.** When dealer 'A' charges more than dealer 'B' for a packaged commodity, it does not necessarily mean that the former is overcharging the consumer. He may be charging the maximum price allowed in the wholesaler's list, while his competitor chooses to charge less. Competition among traders is good for consumers, so look for shops charging less than the marked price and save money. Another commonly observed practice is that of stickers showing a higher price being pasted over the price marked on a package. The Packaged Commodities Rules state: "No retail dealer or other person shall obliterate, smudge or alter the sale price or the retail sale price indicated by the manufacturer or the packer, as the case may be, on the package or on the label affixed thereto."

An officer of the Weights and Measures Department explained that if the price were changed owing to an increase or decrease in taxes, the notification of such an increase or decrease would have to be shown to the consumer. **He may not paste a sticker on top of the old price.** Irrespective of what the rules may say, this practice is very common and it is not known whether the manufacturer or the dealer is responsible for the stickers.

PACKAGED COMMODITIES SOLD WITHIN THE STATE NOT COVERED BY THE ACT

While the Act covers all inter-state trade, there is no provision in it for regulation of commodities sold or intended to be sold in a packaged form within the state. The existing provisions, it appears, are restricted to inter-state trade only — i.e., to commodities meant for sale outside the state of manufacture. State governments should examine the issue and urgently take up the matter with the Government of India for incorporating appropriate sections in the Standards of Weights and Measures Act 1976 for regulation of Packaged Commodities sold within the state. This would help the Weights and Measures Department to implement the provisions of the standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules 1977.

Strengthening of the weights and measure establishments with more well-trained staff is essential if consumers are to be protected. The Maitra Committee's report stated that any excess income over expenditure in the organisation should be utilised for the development of the organisation and that in no case should such excess income be allowed to be taken to the general revenue of the state. Irrespective of any extra expenditure that may have to be incurred, the government should not waste any time in strengthening the weights and measures organisation. As the Maitra Committee's report emphasises, "If the loss incurred in retail transactions is taken as 5 per cent and in wholesale transaction as 10 per cent, the total loss in a five-year period would amount to Rs. 11,000 crores.

"The tidy sum also dramatically emphasises the erosion of the purchasing power of the common man. It shows how social and economic justice would become meaningless if the standardisation and implementation of weights and measures laws are not properly looked after by the Central and State governments."

HOW TO GET FAIR WEIGHT AND MEASURE

1. **Ensure that the pans of a beam scale or counter scale balance when empty. Only flat beam scales are legal. Round beams are prohibited.**
2. **If the seller bangs the commodities down on the scale, it disturbs the delicate balance. Insist that he reweigh the commodity.**
3. **Do not patronise sellers who hold the scales in the hand or use stones in place of weights.**
4. **Insist on having a clear view of the scales and pans when the goods are being weighed.**
5. **If in doubt check the weights at the back for the verification seal or ask to see the certificate of currency issued by the weights and measures department every two years.**
6. **Always buy metric. Metric calculations are much simpler.**
7. **Ask for goods by weight. Never ask for a rupee's worth or 25p. worth. You will find that you get much more this way. Try it when buying expensive items like spices and you will be surprised at the difference.**
8. **When buying LPG, check that the seal is intact.**
9. **When purchasing cloth check to ensure that the tip of the metre-stick is not tapered.**
10. **When comparing prices of various brands of tooth-paste, soap and such items never go by the apparent size. Look at the weight. 40 gms. and 50 gms. sizes look almost the same.**
11. **When buying kerosene see if the inside of the measure is free from wax or any such material. Check for big dents on the bottom.**
12. **Check the weight given by your regular suppliers of vegetables and groceries and patronise only those who give fair weight. If you have been cheated deliberately warn your friends in the neighbourhood and always report to the local weights and measures authority.**

All these are commonsense precautions if your suspicions are aroused. But do not treat every seller as a potential cheat. You will find on checking that most give fair weight and sometimes the balance may even be in your favour.

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MARRIAGE REVISITED

Continued from page 21

refuse to accept the traditional myth, and refuse to die, suffer till the end.

What will the future hold? What kinds of marriages will our daughters have? The results are yet to come in, but a lot will depend on the vast majority of disillusioned women — the mothers of today. Will they perpetuate the myth of male superiority into the next generation also? Then all the women and children who suffered and died for this cause would have suffered and died in vain. The weapon is the same, used by men down the ages. And it is in the hands of women. What great power to create a new world. a world where women can enjoy freeedom and equality, where these are not just slogans but can be practised in real life. I say, stop teaching your girls anything — whether they are equal or inferior. Start with the boys instead. Teach them that they are not something special, to be waited on hand and foot. Teach them that they are not superior. Don't let us repeat the mistake committeed by our mothers — perpetuating the belief that girls are nice, but boys are better; women are equal, but men are superior. Outdoor jobs for boys and dirty jobs for girls. Let women learn from their mistakes. Let there be a real change of heart and the courage of conviction which will show not in words and in hollow-sounding slogans but in action and in daily lives. And one indication of the change would be when women stop craving for a male child — because then, in your heart of hearts, you still think boys are superior.

I knew a lot of things while I was in school — astronomy, philosophy, about different religions, biology, the changes in the body of a woman at maturity, at conception, in pregnancy, at child-birth, about chromosomes and genes and the laws of heredity, white mice and black mice — before I was sixteen. The only thing I did not know about was marriage. I thought marriage was sex. I thought marriage was a decision (as my whole life had been a decision), a decision to be a success. But I did not know that here it was someone else's decision, and not mine.

When my marriage did not work out, I sat back and looked around to see whether anything was wrong with me. And this is what I found out. It was research made with the help of no books on sociology and marriage — Only the mass media and women's magazines. And then, finally, I realised that nothing was wrong with me, but something was definitely wrong with the society that I lived in.

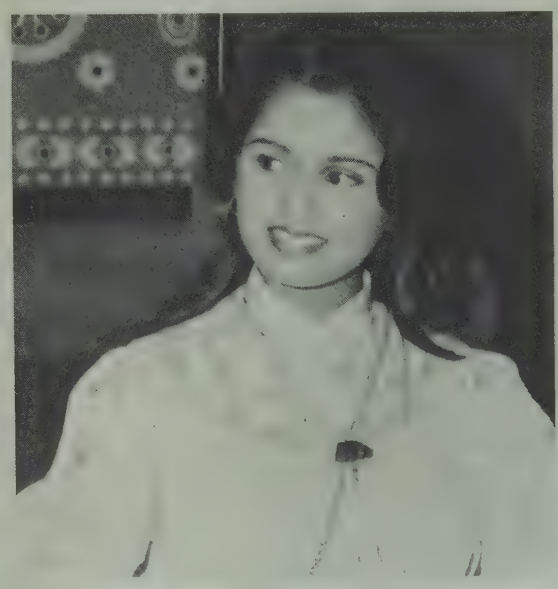
FRANKLY SPEAKING

Devi

HEAT WAVE HITS FILMLAND

The show world I think is hit by the summer heat. They are forgetting their cliches and catch lines. Rajesh Khanna for the last two months, in spite of two about-to-be-released films, "Thodisi Bewafai" and "Red Rose", has not announced his Come-Back. Amitabh has not announced a fresh ban on the press, rather film press, because he is resorting to the non-film press for his publicity. Nargis has not declared "Bhaiyo aur baheno, I will do all I can to cure the ills of filmdom." Sunil Dutt has not said, "Mrs. Dutt, dekhiye ab kya karti hai." Sanju Dutt has not declared katti with Tina Munim. Tina Munim has not given her opinions on Nargis Aunty, Waheeda Aunty, Asha Aunty, Hema Aunty, Bindiya Aunty, etc.

Bindiya has not declared her hope for Vinod or fear of sister Pearl. Vinod Mehra forgets to say, "My marriage was on the rocks from the very beginning." In any case folks will ask which marriage, to begin with. Chintu Kapoor has not said, "Now no one can touch my wife, she is out of bounds for the press." And Neetu Singh has not declared that she is carrying the Kapoor heir (who interrupted her honeymoon and saved her from boredom). Dabboo Kapoor has not talked of his Daddy: "There is only one Raj Kapoor." And Raj Kapoor has not said, "I will show them."



Dev Anand no more wants to take over the country, I. S. Johar has not declared his fifth engagement, Prakash Mehra is putting off "teaching Babi a lesson." Salim-Javed have put aside Amitabh, Dilip Kumar is forgetting to switch on the Sheriff smile, Saira has not complained of morning sickness, Dimple has not opened a flower show, Smita Patil is not contemplating a commercial film, Sarika has forgotten to congratulate "good friend" Kapil Dev on his engagement, Padmini Kolhapure has not named her favourite brand of ice-cream, Zeenat Aman has not wished Sanjay Khan "all the best in his personal as well as professional life."

Sanjay Khan has not talked of "Abdullah". Deepti has not talked of her challenging role in "Ek Bar Phir", Raakhee has not said that "Bosky gets spoilt with all the pampering in 'that house' " (Gulzar's). Gulzar is not restless for rain on the hills, and Reema Kapoor is no more suspicious about Bunty, and Bunty is not taken by surprise, and Vijayeta is no more asking us to spare her, and Sulakshana is no more praising Sunjay Dutt's tough looks in order to keep out of the mess. Mithun and Yogeeta have not issued a bulletin that there is no immediate marriage, and Sanjeev has not dropped a star name who wants to marry him. And yes, I think the summer has hit me too, I have not written "I had predicted. . ." for some time now.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

BOMBAY

A press conference was held at Raj Bhavan recently by the Bal Varsha Prathisthan. The Prathisthan is deeply concerned at the condition of children in this country, and would like the public to know of its reviews and suggested amendments, to the existing Child Welfare Laws. "We also feel it is necessary to have suitable machinery to enforce these laws," said Mrs. Shanti Sadiq Ali, speaking on the occasion. The Committee, consisting of Mrs. Zulie Nakhooda, Mrs. Rukmini Mahadevan, Justice Sarat Chandra Gokhale, Armaity Desai, Mrs. Mehboob Nasrullah, Mrs. Bakul Patel, and Mrs. Lalitha Khilnani, spoke of child adoption laws, child labour, and the setting up of a Children's Board, which would look into these.

* * *

An exhibition and sale of hand-painted silk and cotton outfits and a range of children's garments designed by Khorshed Panthaky, fashion designer from Chicago, was held at the Aakar Art Gallery.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Mrs. Gulshan Ewing, Editor, Eve's Weekly and Star & Style.

* * *

Neeta Patel, wife of the Managing director of Rohit Pulp & Paper Mills has been painting for the last 8 years. Her first solo show was held at the Taj Art Gallery on landscapes and still-life.

The proceeds from this exhibition will be donated to the blind and the handicapped.

Mr. Dilip Kumar, Sheriff of Bombay, inaugurated the exhibition.

Mr. Rajni Patel, Mrs. Bakul Patel, and Mr. Vijay Merchant were also present on the occasion.

* * *

An exhibition of paintings by Odette will be held at the Jehangir Art Gallery from June 10 to June 16, 1980, between 12.00 to 8.00 p.m. An accomplished pianist, Odette is also a sculptor and interior decorator.

This is her 4th solo exhibition.

* * *

Mrs. Bakul Patel inaugurated an exhibition on modern living called "Living In Style" at the Regal Room, Hotel Oberoi Towers. Mr. Rajni Patel presided on the occasion. Furniture and fittings, Home products, and Items of leisure such as tape decks, television sets, toys and gardening equipment were on display.

* * *

The Central Cottage Industries Emporium, Bombay, celebrated its 10th anniversary recently. Its mascot, the Bankura Horse, a household name today, is a thousand-year-old traditional piece of craftsmanship from the Bankura district of West Bengal.

At the celebrations, craftsmen were seen at work in a Craft-Demonstration, and a special 10 per cent rebate was offered on all goods. The Bombay Emporium stocks a wide range of crafts, dresses, dress fabrics, toys and gifts.

* * *

A convocation ceremony, replete with caps and gowns, was held for 115 students to mark the momentous occasion of their passing out from kindergarten into high school. All the "graduates" were under 6, and they lined up with seriousness and dignity to receive their precious 'degrees'.

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1. At a press conference held by the Bal Varsha Prathisthan in Bombay, are seen (from left) Dr. (Miss) A Desai, Mrs. Shanti Sadiq Ali, Mrs. M. Nasrullah, Mrs. Lalitha Khilnani, Mrs. Zulie Nakhooda, Mr. S. Gokhale, and Mrs. Bakul Patel.

2. An exhibition and sale of hand-painted silk and cotton outfits was held by Khorshed Panthaky (3rd from left) at Aakar Art Gallery, Bombay.

3. Young graduates of the Lilliput University of St. Joseph's High School, Wadala, Bombay, returning from the convocation with their degrees which they received at a 'Graduation Day' function.

4. At Neeta Patel's exhibition of paintings at Taj Art Gallery, Bombay, are seen (from left) Mr. Rajni Patel, Mrs. Bakul Patel, Neeta Patel, Mr. Vijay Merchant, and chief guest Mr. Dilip Kumar, Sheriff of Bombay.

Mrs. Nargis Dutt gave the Convocation Address.

This convocation with a diffcrence was instituted in the Year of the Child, by St. Joseph's School, Wadala, to give children a sense of the seriousness of learning from the very start.

DELHI

An exhibition of oil and water colour paintings by Miss M. Grover was held at the Aifacs Gallery recently.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Begum Abida Ahmed in the presence of a distinguished gathering.

* * *

The Balraj Sahni Memorial All India Award for 1979-80 was presented to Mr. Khushwant Singh, Journalist, Author and Member, Rajya Sabha, at the YMCA Hall, New Delhi, by the All India Artists Association, Simla, headed by noted Hindi stage actor Mr. Sudershan Gour.

The award giving function was presided over by Mr. Bhisham Sahni, and Justice Mr. G.D. Khosla, was the chief guest. The award has been instituted by the All India Artists Association to honour journalists, writers, and artists.

CALCUTTA

The Modern Art and Photographic Society for the Deaf held its annual exhibition at the Academy of Fine Arts. Among the oils, graphics, and watercolours, Amal Bera, the deaf secretary of the Society, exhibited some outstanding paintings. His wife Papiya's batik effects were impressive on silk panels. The Society owes its origin to a deaf young man, Arun Sarkar, who, in 1960, was the first one to organise deaf artists' endeavours to express themselves through art and the photographic medium. These young people continue their activities in spite of lack of funds or Government aid.

* * *

The Centre of the Nutritional Food Programme of the Red Cross, 24 Parganas, was opened to help villagers at the Friendship Unit Club at Baruipur, West Bengal. It was inaugurated by Mr. B. Basu, Alipore Sadar.

* * *

A large audience heard Amjad Ali Khan play the sarod at the Rabindra Sadan. Latif Ahmed Khan, accompanied Amjad Ali. The show was organised by Pradyut Sarkar of Kalakendra.

* * *

The show by the 40 member troupe of State Fold Song and Dance Ensemble from Bulgaria, sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Affairs, at the Rabindra Sadan, will be remembered long for the delightful entertainment it provided. The colourful costumes, the vivacious dancing and the use of original folk instruments by the muscians was greatly appreciated. Mr. Chittabrata Majumdar, Minister for Small Scale Industries, West Bengal, presented a bouquet to Maria Kuteva. Mr. A. Chakravarty, P. R. Consultant to the State Government hoped that future contacts between these countries will develop in the future.

* * *

Young people felt that the short train journey to Chittaranjan, West Bengal, from Calcutta was worth the trouble to view the two day Science Exhibition organised by a young group of students calling themselves, "Amra Kajan" (We Few). It was estimated that a 10,000 strong crowd saw the exhibition comprising electronic gadgets, biological and anatomical articles and indigenous drugs. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. A. K. Mukherjee.

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5. Begum Abida Ahmed was the chief guest at an exhibition of paintings by Miss M. Grover held in Delhi recently.

6. At the opening of Woman's World, Ludhiana, Mrs. Sardar Singh is seen proposing a vote of thanks to Mrs. Bectar (at left) President of Laxmi Ladies Club.

7. Students of Ashok Hall, Calcutta, receive the trophy at the Inter-School Quiz Contest from former International Director, Lions Club, Mr. Bihari Agarwal.

7

THIS WEEK FOR YOU

FOR THE JUNE 8 — 14, 1980
John Naylor

IF IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK:

Make the most of the social side of life for the remainder of 1980. Except for a period around the turn of the year, your popularity will be high and your prospects for influencing the influential particularly good! Although you must not neglect the mundane trivialities which are, nevertheless, important, you will find success comes from who you know, rather than what you do! Definitely a romantic period ahead, whether married or single and, if you've been considering drastic changes in any area of activity, push on now, rather than later. If you have problems, these will concern family affairs. Two people look the likely source of irritation: an elderly person of demanding nature and a secretive, yet 'airy-fairy', relative, prone to muddle and confusion.

ARIES
(Mar 22 — Apr 20)

An incident this week will trigger off a happy chain of events. It could be something quite trivial, perhaps a brief encounter that leads to a fortunate link. Travel is well starred. Correspondence could bring news you are eagerly awaiting.

TAURUS
(Apr 21 — May 21)

The next few weeks show splendid signs for light-hearted activities, for making new friends and also for pleasure trips. It's a good time for changes, so, if you fancy a new job or a better set-up, look around, make contact; see what you can do.

GEMINI
(May 22 — June 21)

Everything looks rosy — and you shouldn't be lonely just now! The impact of friends and relatives on your affairs will be a lucky one and this could be a week of happy surprises, cheering news. If you have not improved your prospects in the recent past make the most of the goodwill around you now.

CANCER
June 22 — July 23)

A lively and amusing week which should contain some pleasing gifts and compliments, some desirable social invitations. It's a good time to organise minor changes, to clear away clutter, to streamline both home and working life to your benefit. Start something interesting in leisure time.

LEO
(July 24 — Aug 23)

Strangers will tend to be lucky to you this week, so will fresh scenes, new ideas, plans and projects. A period to go after what you want, and to open your mind to wider horizons.

VIRGO
(Aug 24 — Sept 23)

Mars in your sign will be making you bolder than usual and, as long as you are not too impulsive, this is a good thing! Jupiter, also in Virgo, is a more benign influence — but a very lucky one. If you can combine these two factors, your affairs can surge ahead in the direction you want.

LIBRA
(Sept 24 — Oct 23)

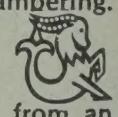
You might be working hard this week, but to good avail, and you'll have extra energy to aid you. However, don't be careless about mortgaging your time ahead — you will shortly enter a strenuous period, though a fortunate one, when you will need to grasp opportunities as they occur.

SCORPIO
(Oct 24 — Nov 22)

This week is starred for fun and friendships, so there is not much point in forcing business issues. Changes are on the way, could occur very soon, so take the opportunity to unwind in pleasant company.

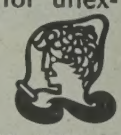
SAGITTARIUS
(Nov 23 — Dec 22)

A special hope or wish may be delayed for a few months, is more likely to reach fruition nearer your birthday. At the moment, you might find it more difficult than usual to put yourself and your ideas across satisfactorily. A shortage of cash between now and the end of July may also be hampering.



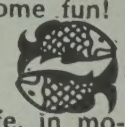
CAPRICORN
(Dec 23 — Jan 20)

Lively stars are affecting you — but from an adverse position. This will bring a restless atmosphere, a lot of coming and going, chopping and changing on the part of companions, which puts routine out of gear. Organise as best you can, but allow for unexpected changes.



AQUARIUS
Jan 21 — Feb 19)

Trivialities could have got you down recently, but you should now be feeling more settled, generally — more optimistic too. If a minor health trouble lingers on from recent stresses, deal with this and get it off your mind. Make health and appearance your first priority, in fact; then have some fun!



PISCES
Feb 20 — Mar 21)

Contradictory signs in your love life, in money matters too. Take the safe and sure course in both these areas! You will be feeling aggressive this week, disinclined to put up with anything much! Try to keep abreast of routine tasks, for social life is developing and can bring happy companionship.

Eve Weekly

Quiz: NEW SERIES No. 12

"HEGMAN"

1. After some successful children's books, an anthology of writing, her new collection of poems, "Fix" has been widely appreciated. Name this well known poetess and columnist.
2. Which film won for Mrinal Sen the National Award for best director in 1980?
3. Name the first Japanese to climb Mount Everest by the difficult north-east ridge route.
4. Where was the first non-aligned summit held?
5. Medieval buildings were sometimes decorated with spouts in the shape of strange grotesque creatures. What are they called?
6. Name the eminent Carnatic mridangam artiste who announced his retirement recently.
7. Billie Jean-King won the women's singles title at Wimbledon in 1973. Who was the men's singles champion that year?
8. Which non-Arab country was the first to grant full diplomatic status to the P.L.O.?
9. How manny bones does the giraffe have in its neck?
10. The sets for the ballets, "Parade" "The Three-Cornered Hat" and "Pulcinella" (1917-1919) were designed by a famous artist. What was his name?
11. "Evam Indrajit" is a play by a noted theatre wizard and playwright, whose works have revolutionised theatre. Name him.
12. This man detected the four major satellites of Jupiter, the rings of Saturn and the spots on the sun, and was described by John Milton as "the great Tuscan artist" Who was he?

This is the 12th Quiz Contest with a prize of Rs. 200 for the reader who sends an all-correct solution. If more than one do so, the prize money will be divided among them. The deadline for the answers is June 26, 1980. Every enntry must be accompanied by a cutting of this column.

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